CHILDREN'S BOOK
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LOS ANGELES

FRONTISPICE . .

His foot slipped and down he tumbled, in the very path of the enrag'd, perfuing Animal.

Published March 26. 1786 by J. Stockdale Piccadilly.

THE

HISTORY

OF

SANDFORD AND MERTON,

A WORK

INTENDED FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN.

But I do not know that there is upon the face of the earth a more uſeleſs, more contemptible, and more miſerable animal than a wealthy, luxurious man, without buſineſs or profeſſion, arts, ſciences, or exerciſes. LD. MONBODDO.

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1798.

THE

HISTORY

OF

SANDFORD AND MERTON.

THE ſummer had now completely paſt away while Tommy was receiving theſe improvements at the houſe of Mr. Barlow. In the courſe of this time, both his body and mind had acquired additional vigour; for he was neither ſo fretful and humourſome, nor ſo eaſily affected by the viciſſitudes of the ſeaſon.

And now the winter had ſet in with unuſual ſeverity. The water was all frozen

into a ſolid maſs of ice; the earth was bare of food; and the little birds that uſed to hop about and chirp with gladneſs, ſeemed to lament in ſilence the inclemency of the weather. Tommy was one day ſurpriſed, when he entered his chamber, to find a very pretty little bird flying about it. He went down ſtairs and informed Mr. Barlow, who, after he had ſeen the bird, told him it was called a Robin-red-breaſt; and that it was naturally more tame and diſpoſed to cultivate the ſociety of men than any other ſpecies. But, at preſent, added he, the little fellow is in want of food, becauſe the earth is too hard to furniſh him any aſſiſtance, and hunger inſpires him with this unuſual boldneſs. Why then, ſaid Tommy, ſir, if you will give me leave, I will fetch a piece of bread and feed him. Do ſo, anſwered Mr. Barlow, but firſt ſet the window open, that he may ſee you do not intend to take him priſoner. Tommy accordingly opened his window, and, ſcattering a few crumbs of bread about the room, had the ſatisfaction of ſeeing his

gueſt

gueſt hop down and make a very hearty meal. He then flew out of the room, and ſettled upon a neighbouring tree, ſinging all the time, as if to return thanks for the hoſpitality he had met with.

Tommy was greatly delighted with his new acquaintance, and from this time never failed to ſet his window open every morning, and ſcatter ſome crumbs about the room; which the bird perceiving hopped fearleſs in, and regaled himſelf under the protection of his benefactor. By degrees, the intimacy increaſed ſo much, that little Robin would alight on Tommy's ſhoulder, and whiſtle his notes in that ſituation, or eat out of his hand; all which gave Tommy ſo much ſatisfaction, that he would frequently call Mr. Barlow and Harry to be witneſs of his favourite's careſſes; nor did he ever eat his own meals without reſerving a part for his little friend.

It however happened that one day Tommy went up ſtairs after dinner, intending to feed his bird as uſual; but as ſoon as he

opened the door of his chamber, he diſcovered a ſight that pierced him to the very heart. His little friend and innocent companion lay dead upon the floor and torn in pieces; and a large cat taking that opportunity to eſcape, ſoon directed his ſuſpicions towards the murderer. Tommy inſtantly ran down with tears in his eyes, to relate the unfortunate death of his favourite to Mr. Barlow, and to demand vengeance againſt the wicked cat that had occaſioned it. Mr. Barlow heard him with great compaſſion, but aſked what puniſhment he wiſhed to inflict upon the cat.

TOMMY.

Oh! ſir, nothing can be too bad for that cruel animal. I would have her killed, as ſhe killed the poor bird.

Mr. BARLOW.

But do you imagine that ſhe did it out of any particular malice to your bird, or merely becauſe ſhe was hungry, and accuſtomed to catch her prey in that manner?

Tommy

Tommy conſidered ſome time, but at laſt he owned that he did not ſuſpect the cat of having any particular ſpite againſt his bird, and therefore he ſuppoſed ſhe had been impelled by hunger.

Mr. Barlow.

Have you never obſerved that it was the property of that ſpecies to prey upon mice and other little animals?

Tommy.

Yes, ſir, very often.

Mr. Barlow.

And have you ever corrected her for ſo doing, or attempted to teach her other habits?

Tommy.

I cannot ſay I have.—Indeed I have ſeen little Harry, when ſhe had caught a mouſe and was tormenting it, take it from her and give it liberty. But I have never meddled with her myſelf.

Mr. Barlow.

Are you not then more to be blamed than the cat herſelf?—You have obſerved that

it was common to the whole ſpecies to deſtroy mice and little birds, whenever they could ſurpriſe them, yet you have taken no pains to ſecure your favourite from the danger; on the contrary, by rendering him tame, and accuſtoming him to be fed, you have expoſed him to a violent death which he would probably have avoided had he remained wild. Would it not then be juſt and more reaſonable to endeavour to teach the cat that ſhe muſt no longer prey upon little birds, than to put her to death for what you have never taught her was an offence?

TOMMY.

But is that poſſible?

Mr. BARLOW.

Very poſſible, I ſhould imagine. But we may at leaſt try the experiment.

TOMMY.

But why ſhould ſuch a miſchievous creature live at all?

Mr. BARLOW.

Becauſe if you deſtroyed every creature that

that preys upon others, you would perhaps leave few alive.

TOMMY.

Surely, ſir, the poor bird which that naughty cat has killed, was never guilty of ſuch a cruelty?

Mr. BARLOW.

I will not anſwer for that. Let us obſerve what they live upon in the fields, we ſhall then be able to give a better account.

Mr. Barlow then went to the window, and deſired Tommy to come to him and obſerve a Robin which was then hopping upon the graſs with ſomething in its mouth, and aſked him what he thought it was.

TOMMY.

I proteſt, ſir, it is a large worm. And now he has ſwallowed it! I ſhould never have thought that ſuch a pretty bird could be ſo cruel.

Mr. BARLOW.

Do you imagine that the bird is conſcious of all that is ſuffered by the inſect?

TOMMY.

No, ſir.

Mr. BARLOW.

In him then it is not the ſame cruelty which it would be in you, who are endowed with reaſon and reflection. Nature has given him a propenſity for animal food, which he obeys in the ſame manner as the ſheep and ox when they feed upon graſs, or the aſs when he browſes upon the furze or thiſtles.

TOMMY.

Why then, perhaps, the cat did not know the cruelty ſhe was guilty of in tearing that poor bird to pieces.

Mr. BARLOW.

No more than the bird we have juſt ſeen is conſcious of his cruelty to the inſect. The natural food of cats conſiſts in rats, mice, birds, and ſuch ſmall animals as they can ſeize by violence, or catch by craft. It was impoſſible ſhe ſhould know the value you ſet upon your bird, and therefore ſhe had

had no more intention of offending you, than had ſhe caught a mouſe.

TOMMY.

But if that is the caſe, ſhould I have another tame bird, ſhe will kill it as ſhe has done this poor fellow.

Mr. BARLOW.

That, perhaps, may be prevented—I have heard people that deal in birds affirm there is a way of preventing cats from meddling with them.

TOMMY.

Oh! dear ſir, I ſhould like to try it. Will you not ſhow me how to prevent the cat from killing any more birds?

Mr. BARLOW.

Moſt willingly.—It is certainly better to correct the faults of an animal than to deſtroy it. Beſides, I have a particular affection for this cat, becauſe I found her when ſhe was a kitten, and have bred her up ſo tame and gentle that ſhe wi l follow me about like a dog. She comes every morning to my chamber door, and mews till

ſhe is let in; and ſhe ſits upon the table at breakfaſt and dinner, as grave and polite as a viſitor, without offering to touch the meat. Indeed, before ſhe was guilty of this offence, I have often ſeen you ſtroke and careſs her with great affection; and puſs, who is by no means of an ungrateful temper, would always purr and arch her tail, as if ſhe was ſenſible of your attention.

In a few days after this converſation, another Robin, ſuffering, like the former, from the inclemency of the ſeaſon, flew into the houſe, and commenced acquaintance with Tommy. But he, who recollected the mournful fate of his former bird, would not encourage it to any familiarity, till he had claimed the promiſe of Mr. Barlow, in order to preſerve it from danger. Mr. Barlow, therefore, enticed the new gueſt into a ſmall wire cage, and as ſoon as he had entered it ſhut the door, in order to prevent his eſcaping. He then took a ſmall iron gridiron, ſuch as is uſed to broil meat upon, and having almoſt heated it red hot, placed

it

it erect upon the ground, before the cage in which the bird was confined. He then contrived to entice the cat into the room, and obſerving that ſhe fixed her eye upon the bird, which ſhe deſtined to become her prey, he withdrew the two little boys, in order to leave her unreſtrained in her operations. They did not retire far, but obſerved her from the door fix her eyes upon the cage, and begin to approach it in ſilence, bending her body to the ground, and almoſt touching it as ſhe crawled along. When ſhe judged herſelf within a proper diſtance, ſhe exerted all her agility in a violent ſpring, which would probably have been fatal to the bird, had not the gridiron placed before the cage received the impreſſion of her attack. Nor was this diſappointment the only puniſhment ſhe was deſtined to undergo: the bars of the machine had been ſo thoroughly heated, that in ruſhing againſt them ſhe felt herſelf burned in ſeveral parts of her body; and retired from the field of battle, mewing dreadfully and full of pain;

and

and ſuch was the impreſſion which this adventure produced, that from this time ſhe was never known again to attempt to deſtroy birds.

The coldneſs of the weather ſtill continuing, all the wild animals began to perceive the effects, and, compelled by hunger, approached nearer to the habitations of man and the places they had been accuſtomed to avoid. A multitude of hares, the moſt timorous of all animals, were frequently ſeen ſcudding about the garden, in ſearch of the ſcanty vegetables which the ſeverity of the ſeaſon had ſpared. In a ſhort time they had devoured all the green herbs which could be found, and hunger ſtill oppreſſing them, they began to gnaw the very bark of the trees for food. One day, as Tommy was walking in the garden, he found that even the beloved tree which he had planted with his own hands, and from which he had promiſed himſelf ſo plentiful a produce of fruit, had not eſcaped the general depredation, but had been gnawed round at the root

and

and killed. Tommy, who could ill brook diſappointment, was ſo enraged to ſee his labours prove abortive, that he ran with tears in his eyes to Mr. Barlow, to demand vengeance againſt the devouring hares. Indeed, ſaid Mr. Barlow, I am ſorry for what they have done, but it is now too late to prevent it. Yes, anſwered Tommy, but you may have all thoſe miſchievous creatures ſhot, that they may do no farther damage. A little while ago, replied Mr. Barlow, you wanted to deſtroy the cat becauſe ſhe was cruel, and preyed upon living animals; and now you would murder all the hares, merely becauſe they are innocent, inoffenſive animals, that ſubſiſt upon vegetables. Tommy looked a little fooliſh, but he ſaid, that he did not want to hurt them for living upon vegetables, but for deſtroying his tree. But, ſaid Mr. Barlow, how can you expect the animal to diſtinguiſh your trees from any other? You ſhould therefore have fenced them round in ſuch a manner as might have prevented the hares from

reaching

reaching them. Beſides, in ſuch extreme diſtreſs as animals now ſuffer from the want of food, I think they may be forgiven if they treſpaſs a little more than uſual. Mr. Barlow then took Tommy by the hand, and led him into a field at ſome diſtance which belonged to him, and which was ſown with turnips. Scarcely had they entered the field, before a flock of larks roſe up in ſuch innumerable quantities as almoſt darkened the air. See, ſaid Mr. Barlow, theſe little fellows are treſpaſſing upon my turnips in ſuch numbers, that in a ſhort time they will deſtroy every bit of green about the field; yet I would not hurt them upon any account. Look round the whole extent of the country, you will ſee nothing but a barren waſte, which preſents no food either to bird or beaſt. Theſe little creatures therefore aſſemble in multitudes here, where they find a ſcanty ſubſiſtence, and though they do me ſome miſchief they are welcome to what they can find. In the ſpring they will enliven our walks by their agreeable ſongs.

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

How dreary and uncomfortable is this ſeaſon of winter! I wiſh it were always ſummer.

Mr. BARLOW.

In ſome countries it is ſo: but there the inhabitants complain more of the intolerable heat than you do of the cold. They would with pleaſure be relieved by the agreeable variety of cooler weather, when they are panting under the violence of a ſcorching ſun.

TOMMY.

Then I ſhould like to live in a country that was never either diſagreeably hot or cold.

Mr. BARLOW.

Such a country is ſcarcely to be found; or if there is, it contains ſo ſmall a portion of the earth, as to leave room for very few inhabitants.

TOMMY.

Then I ſhould think it would be ſo crowded that one could hardly ſtir; for every

every body would naturally wiſh to live there.

Mr. Barlow.

There you are miſtaken, for the inhabitants of the fineſt climates are often leſs attached to their country than thoſe of the worſt. Cuſtom reconciles people to every kind of life, and makes them equally ſatisfied with the place in which they are born. There is a country called Lapland, which extends a great deal farther north than any part of England, which is covered with perpetual ſnows during all the year, yet the inhabitants would not exchange it for any other portion of the globe.

Tommy.

How do they live in ſo diſagreeable a country?

Mr. Barlow.

If you aſk Harry he will tell you. Being a farmer, it is his buſineſs to ſtudy the different methods by which men find ſubſiſtence in all the different parts of the earth.

Tommy.

TOMMY.

I ſhould like very much to hear, if Harry will be ſo good as to tell me.

HARRY.

You muſt know then, maſter Tommy, that in the greateſt part of this country which is called Lapland, the inhabitants neither ſow nor reap; they are totally unacquainted with the uſe of corn, and know not how to make bread. They have no trees which bear fruit, ſcarcely any of the herbs which grow in our gardens in England; nor do they poſſeſs either ſheep, goats, hogs, cows, or horſes.

TOMMY.

That muſt be a diſagreeable country indeed! What then have they to live upon?

HARRY.

They have a ſpecies of deer which is bigger than the largeſt ſtags which you may have ſeen in gentlemen's parks in England, and very ſtrong. Theſe animals are called rein-deer, and are of ſo gentle a nature,

nature, that they are eaſily tamed, and taught to live together in herds, and to obey their maſters. In the ſhort ſummer which they enjoy, the Laplanders lead them out to paſture in the vallies, where the graſs grows very high and luxuriant. In the winter, when the ground is all covered over with ſnow, the deer have learned to ſcratch away the ſnow, and find a ſort of moſs which grows underneath it, and upon this they ſubſiſt. Theſe creatures afford not only food, but raiment, and even houſes to their maſters. In the ſummer the Laplander milks his herds, and lives upon the produce; ſometimes he lays by the milk in wooden veſſels to ſerve him for food in winter. This is ſoon frozen ſo hard, that when they would uſe it, they are obliged to cut it in pieces with an hatchet. Sometimes the winters are ſo ſevere, that the poor deer can ſcarcely find even moſs; and then the maſter is obliged to kill part of them and live upon the fleſh. Of the ſkins he makes warm garments for himſelf

and

and family, and ſtrews them thick upon the ground to ſleep upon.

Their houſes are only poles ſtuck ſlanting into the ground, and almoſt joined at top, except a little hole which they leave to let out the ſmoke. Theſe poles are either covered with the ſkins of animals, or coarſe cloth, or ſometimes with turf and the bark of trees. There is a little hole left in one ſide, through which the family creep into their tent, and they make a comfortable fire to warm them in the middle. People, that are ſo eaſily contented, are totally ignorant of moſt of the things that are thought ſo neceſſary here. The Laplanders have neither gold, nor ſilver, nor carpets, nor carve-work in their houſes. Every man makes for himſelf all that the real wants of life require, and with his own hands performs every thing which is neceſſary to be done. Their food conſiſts either in frozen milk, or the fleſh of the rein-deer, or that of the bear, which they frequently hunt and kill. Inſtead

ſtead of bread, they ſtrip off the bark of firs, which are almoſt the only trees which grow upon thoſe diſmal mountains, and boiling the inward and more tender ſkin, they eat it with their fleſh. The greateſt happineſs of theſe poor people is to live free and unreſtrained: therefore they do not long remain fixed to any ſpot, but taking down their houſes, they pack them up along with the little furniture they poſſeſs, and load them upon ſledges to carry and ſet them up in ſome other place.

TOMMY.

Have you not ſaid that they have neither horſes nor oxen? Do they then draw theſe ſledges themſelves?

HARRY.

I thought I ſhould ſurpriſe you, maſter Tommy. The rein-deer which I have deſcribed are ſo tractable that they are harneſſed like horſes, and draw the ſledges with their maſters upon them near thirty miles a day. They ſet out with ſurpriſing ſwiftneſs, and run along the ſnow, which is

frozen ſo hard in winter, that it ſupports them like a ſolid road. In this manner do the Laplanders perform their journies, and change their places of abode as often as is agreeable. In the ſpring they lead their herds of deer to paſture upon the mountains; in the winter they come down into the plains, where they are better protected againſt the fury of the winds. For the whole country is waſte and deſolate, deſtitute of all the objects which you ſee here. There are no towns, nor villages; no fields encloſed or cultivated; no beaten roads; no inns for travellers to ſleep at; no ſhops to purchaſe the neceſſaries or conveniences of life at; the face of the whole country is barren and diſmal; wherever you turn your eyes, nothing is to be ſeen but lofty mountains white with ſnow, and covered with ice and fogs. Scarcely any trees are to be ſeen, except a few ſtunted fir and birch. Theſe mountains afford a retreat to thouſands of bears and wolves, which are continually pouring down and prowling

prowling about to prey upon the herds of deer: ſo that the Laplanders are continually obliged to fight them in their own defence. To do this, they fix large pieces of flat board about four or five feet long to the bottom of their feet; and thus ſecured, they run along without ſinking into the ſnow, ſo nimbly, that they can overtake the wild animals in the chaſe. The bear they kill with bows and arrows, which they make themſelves. Sometimes they find out the dens where they have laid themſelves up in the winter, and then they attack them with ſpears, and generally overcome them. When a Laplander has killed a bear, he carries it home in triumph, boils the fleſh in an iron pot, which is all the cooking they are acquainted with, and invites all his neighbours to the feaſt. This they account the greateſt delicacy in the world, and particularly the fat, which they melt over the fire and drink; then, ſitting round the flame, they entertain each other with ſtories of their own exploits in

hunting

hunting or fiſhing, till the feaſt is over. Though they live ſo barbarous a life, they are a good-natured, ſincere, and hoſpitable people. If a ſtranger comes among them, they lodge and entertain him in the beſt manner they are able, and generally refuſe all payment for their ſervices, unleſs it be a little bit of tobacco, which they are immoderately fond of ſmoking.

TOMMY.

Poor people! how I pity them to live ſuch an unhappy life! I ſhould think the fatigues and hardſhips they undergo, muſt kill them in a very ſhort ſpace of time.

Mr. BARLOW.

Have you then obſerved that thoſe who eat and drink the moſt, and undergo the leaſt fatigue, are the moſt free from diſeaſes?

TOMMY.

Not always; for I remember that there are two or three gentlemen that come to dine at my father's who eat an amazing quantity of meat, beſides drinking a great

deal of wine; and theſe poor gentlemen have loſt the uſe of almoſt all their limbs. Their legs are ſo ſwelled, that they are almoſt as big as their bodies; their feet are ſo tender, that they cannot ſet them to the ground; and their knees ſo ſtiff, that they cannot bend them. When they arrive, they are obliged to be helped our of their coaches by two or three people, and they come hobbling in upon crutches. But I never heard them talk about any thing but eating and drinking in all my life.

Mr. BARLOW.

And did you ever obſerve that any of the poor had loſt the uſe of their limbs by the ſame diſeaſe?

TOMMY.

I cannot ſay I have.

Mr. BARLOW.

Then, perhaps, the being confined to a ſcanty diet, to hardſhip, and to exerciſe, may not be ſo deſtructive as you imagine. This way of life is even much leſs ſo than the intemperance in which too many of the

the rich continually indulge themſelves. I remember lately reading a ſtory upon this ſubject, which if you pleaſe you ſhall hear. Mr. Barlow then read the following

Hiſtory of a ſurpriſing CURE *of the* GOUT.

In one of the provinces of Italy there lived a wealthy gentleman, who, having no taſte either for improving his mind, or exerciſing his body, acquired an habit of eating almoſt all day long. The whole extent of his thoughts was what he ſhould eat for dinner, and how he ſhould procure the greateſt delicacies. Italy produces excellent wines; but theſe were not enough for our epicure. He ſettled agents in different parts of France and Spain, to buy up all the moſt generous and coſtly wines of thoſe countries. He had correſpondencies with all the maritime cities, that he might be conſtantly ſupplied with every ſpecies of fiſh. Every poulterer and fiſhmonger in the town was under articles to let him have his choice of rarities. He

alſo employed a man on purpoſe to give directions for his paſtry and deſſerts. As ſoon as he had breakfaſted in the morning, it was his conſtant practice to retire to his library; for he too had a library, although he never opened a book. When he was there, he gravely ſeated himſelf in an eaſy chair, and, tucking a napkin under his chin, ordered his head-cook to be ſent in to him. The head-cook inſtantly appeared, attended by a couple of footmen, who carried each a ſilver ſalver of a prodigious ſize, on which were cups which contained ſauces of every different flavour which could be deviſed. The gentleman, with the greateſt ſolemnity, uſed to dip a bit of bread in each, and taſte it; giving his orders upon the ſubject with as much earneſtneſs and preciſion as if he had been ſigning papers for the government of a kingdom. When this important affair was thus happily concluded, he generally threw himſelf upon a couch to repair the fatigues of ſuch an exertion, and refreſh himſelf againſt

dinner.

dinner. When that delightful hour arrived, it is impoſſible to deſcribe either the variety of fiſh, fleſh, and fowl, which was ſet before him, or the ſurpriſing greedineſs with which he ate of all; ſtimulating his appetite with the higheſt ſauces and richeſt wines, till at length he was obliged to deſiſt, not from being ſatisfied, but from mere inability to contain more.

This kind of life he had long purſued, but at laſt became ſo corpulent, that he could hardly move. His belly appeared prominent like a mountain, his face was bloated, and his legs, though ſwelled to the ſize of columns, ſeemed unable to ſupport the prodigious weight of his body. Added to this, he was troubled with continual indegeſtions, and racking pains in ſeveral of his limbs, which at length terminated in a violent fit of the gout. The pains, indeed, at length abated, and this unfortunate epicure returned to all his former habits of intemperance. The interval of eaſe however was ſhort, and the attacks of

his diſeaſe becoming more and more frequent, he was at length deprived of the uſe of almoſt all his limbs. In this unhappy ſtate he determined to conſult a phyſician that lived in the ſame town, and had the reputation of performing many ſurpriſing cures. Doctor, ſaid the gentleman to the phyſician, when he arrived, you ſee the miſerable ſtate to which I am reduced. I do indeed, anſwered the phyſician; and I ſuppoſe you have contributed to it by your own intemperance. As to intemperance, replied the gentleman, I believe few have leſs to anſwer for than myſelf; I indeed love a moderate dinner and ſupper, but I never was intoxicated with liquor in my life. Probably then you ſleep too much, anſwered the phyſician. As to ſleep, ſaid the gentleman, I am in bed near twelve hours every night, becauſe I find the ſharpneſs of the morning air extremely injurious to my conſtitution; but I am ſo troubled with a plaguy flatulency and heart-burn, that I am ſcarcely able to

cloſe

cloſe my eyes all night; or if I do, I find myſelf almoſt ſtrangled with wind, and wake in agonies. That is a very alarming ſymptom indeed, replied the doctor; I wonder ſo many reſtleſs nights do not entirely wear you out. They would indeed, anſwered the gentleman, if I did not make a ſhift to procure a little ſleep two or three times a day, which enables me to hold out a little longer. As to exerciſe, continued the doctor, I fear you are not able to uſe a great deal. Alas! anſwered the ſick man, while I was able, I never failed to go out in my carriage once or twice a week; but in my preſent ſituation I can no longer bear the gentleſt motion. Beſides diſordering my whole frame, it gives me ſuch intolerable twitches in my limbs, that you would imagine I was abſolutely falling to pieces. Your caſe, anſwered the phyſician, is indeed bad, but not quite deſperate; and if you could abridge the quantity of your food and ſleep, you would in a ſhort time find yourſelf much better.

Alas! anſwered the ſick man, I find you little know the delicacy of my conſtitution, or you would not put me upon a method which will infallibly deſtroy me. When I riſe in a morning, I feel as if all the powers of life were extinguiſhed within me; my ſtomach is oppreſſed with nauſea, my head with aches and ſwimming, and, above all, I feel ſuch an intolerable ſinking in my ſpirits, that without the aſſiſtance of two or three cordials, and ſome reſtorative ſoup, I am confident I never could get through the morning. No, doctor, I have ſuch a confidence in your ſkill, that there is no pill or potion you can order me, which I will not take with pleaſure; but as to a change in my diet, that is impoſſible. That is, anſwered the phyſician, you wiſh for health without being at the trouble of acquiring it, and imagine that all the conſequences of an ill-ſpent life are to be waſhed away by a julep, or a decoction of ſenna. But as I cannot cure you upon thoſe terms, I will not deceive you for an inſtant.

inſtant. Your caſe is out of the power of medicine, and you can only be relieved by your own exertions.

How hard is this, anſwered the gentleman, to be thus abandoned to deſpair even in the prime of life! Cruel and unfeeling doctor, will you not attempt any thing to procure me eaſe? Sir, anſwered the phyſician, I have already told you every thing I know upon the ſubject. I muſt, however, acquaint you, that I have a brother phyſician, who lives at Padua, a man of the greateſt learning and integrity, who is particularly famous for curing the gout. If you think it worth your while to conſult him, I will give you a letter of recommendation; for he never ſtirs from home even to attend a prince.

Here the converſation ended; for the gentleman, who did not like the trouble of the journey, took his leave of the phyſician, and returned home, very much diſpirited. In a little while he either was, or fancied himſelf worſe; and as the idea of

the Paduan phyſician had never left his head, he at laſt reſolutely determined to ſet out upon the journey. For this purpoſe he had a litter ſo contrived that he could lie recumbent, or recline at his eaſe and eat his meals. The diſtance was not above one day's tolerable journey, but the gentleman wiſely reſolved to make four of it, for fear of over-fatiguing himſelf. He had, beſides, a loaded waggon attending, filled with every thing that conſtitutes good eating; and two of his cooks went with him, that nothing might be wanting to his accommodation upon the road. After a weariſome journey, he at length arrived within ſight of Padua, and eagerly inquiring after the houſe of Dr. Ramozini, was ſoon directed to the ſpot. Then, having been helped out of his carriage by half a dozen of his ſervants, he was ſhown into a neat but plain parlour, from which he had the proſpect of twenty or thirty people at dinner in a ſpacious hall. In the middle of them was the

learned

learned doctor himſelf, who with much complacence invited the company to eat heartily. My good friend, ſaid the doctor, to a pale-looking man on his right hand, you muſt eat three ſlices more of this roaſt beef, or you will never loſe your ague. My friend, ſaid he to another, drink off this glaſs of porter; it is juſt arrived from England, and is a ſpecific for nervous fevers. Do not ſtuff your child ſo with macaroni, added he, turning to a woman, if you would wiſh to cure him of the ſcrophula. Good man, ſaid he to a fourth, how goes on the ulcer in your leg? Much better indeed, replied the man, ſince I have lived at your honour's table. Well, replied the phyſician, in a fortnight you will be perfectly cured, if you do but drink wine enough. Thank heaven, ſaid the gentleman, who had heard all this with infinite pleaſure, I have at laſt met with a reaſonable phyſician; he will not confine me to bread and water, nor ſtarve me under pretence of curing me, like that confounded

quack from whoſe clutches I have ſo luckily eſcaped. At length the doctor diſmiſſed his company, who retired loading him with thanks and bleſſings. He then approached the gentleman, and welcomed him with the greateſt politeneſs, who preſented him with his letters of recommendation; which after the phyſician had peruſed, he thus accoſted him: Sir, the letter of my learned friend has fully inſtructed me in the particulars of your caſe; it is indeed a difficult one, but I think you have no reaſon to deſpair of a perfect recovery. If, added he, you chooſe to put yourſelf under my care, I will employ all the ſecrets of my art for your aſſiſtance; but one condition is abſolutely indiſpenſable; you muſt ſend away all your ſervants, and ſolemnly engage to follow my preſcriptions for at leaſt a month: without this compliance I would not undertake the cure even of a monarch. Doctor, anſwered the gentleman, what I have ſeen of your profeſſion, does not, I confeſs, much prejudice me in their favour, and I

ſhould

ſhould heſitate to agree to ſuch a propoſal from any other individual. Do as you like, ſir, anſwered the phyſician; the employing me or not, is entirely voluntary on your part. But as I am above the common mercenary views of gain, I never ſtake the reputation of ſo noble an art, without a rational proſpect of ſucceſs. And what ſucceſs can I hope for in ſo obſtinate a diſorder, unleſs the patient will conſent to a fair experiment of what I can effect? Indeed, replied the gentleman, what you ſay is ſo candid, and your whole behaviour ſo much intereſts me in your favour, that I will immediately give you proofs of the moſt unbounded confidence. He then ſent for his ſervants, and ordered them to return home, and not to come near him till a whole month was elapſed. When they were gone, the phyſician aſked him how he ſupported the journey. Why really, anſwered he, much better than I could have expected. But I feel myſelf unuſually hungry; and therefore, with your permiſſion, ſhall beg to have they hour

hour of ſupper a little haſtened. Moſt willingly, anſwered the doctor; at eight o'clock every thing ſhall be ready for your entertainment. In the mean time you will permit me to viſit my patients.

While the phyſician was abſent, the gentleman was pleaſing his imagination with the thoughts of the excellent ſupper he ſhould make. Doubtleſs, ſaid he to himſelf, if Signor Ramozini treats the poor in ſuch an hoſpitable manner, he will ſpare nothing for the entertainment of a man of my importance. I have heard there are delicious trouts and ortolans in this part of Italy. I make no doubt but the doctor keeps an excellent cook; and I ſhall have no reaſon to repent the diſmiſſion of my ſervants. With theſe ideas he kept himſelf ſome time amuſed; at length his appetite growing keener and keener every inſtant, from faſting longer than ordinary, he loſt all patience, and, calling one of the ſervants of the houſe, inquired for ſome little nice thing to ſtay his ſtomach till the hour of

ſupper.

ſupper. Sir, ſaid the ſervant, I would gladly oblige you, but it is as much as my place is worth: my maſter is the beſt and moſt generous of men; but ſo great is his attention to his houſe patients, that he will not ſuffer one of them to eat unleſs in his preſence. However, ſir, have patience; in two hours more the ſupper will be ready, and then you may indemnify yourſelf for all. Thus was the gentleman compelled to paſs two hours more without food, a degree of abſtinence he had not practiſed for almoſt twenty years. He complained bitterly of the ſlowneſs of time, and was continually inquiring what was the hour. At length the doctor returned punctual to his time, and ordered the ſupper to be brought in. Accordingly ſix diſhes were ſet upon the table with great ſolemnity, all under cover, and the gentleman flattered himſelf he ſhould now be rewarded for his long abſtinence. As they were ſitting down to table, the learned Ramozini thus accoſted his gueſt: Before you give a looſe to your appetite,

ſir,

ſir, I muſt acquaint you, that, as the moſt effectual method of ſubduing this obſtinate diſeaſe, all your food and drink will be mixed up with ſuch medicinal ſubſtances as your caſe requires. They will not be indeed diſcoverable by any of your ſenſes; but as their effects are equally ſtrong and certain, I muſt recommend to you to eat with moderation. Having ſaid this, he ordered the diſhes to be uncovered, which, to the extreme aſtoniſhment of the gentleman, contained nothing but olives, dried figs, dates, ſome roaſted apples, a few boiled eggs, and a piece of hard cheeſe. Heaven and earth! cried the gentleman, loſing all patience at this mortifying ſpectacle, is this the entertainment you have prepared for me, with ſo many ſpeeches and prefaces? Do you imagine that a perſon of my fortune can ſup on ſuch contemptible fare as would hardly ſatisfy the wretched peaſants whom I ſaw at dinner in your hall? Have patience, my dear ſir, replied the phyſician; it is the extreme anxiety I have for your welfare that

compels

compels me to treat you with this apparent incivility. Your blood is all in a ferment with the violent exerciſe you have undergone; and were I raſhly to indulge your craving appetites, a fever or pleuriſy might be the conſequence. But to-morrow I hope you will be cooler, and then you may live in a ſtyle more adapted to your quality. The gentleman began to comfort himſelf with this reflection, and, as there was no help, he at laſt determined to wait with patience another night. He accordingly taſted a few of the dates and olives, ate a piece of cheeſe with a ſlice of excellent bread, and found himſelf more refreſhed than he could have imagined was poſſible, from ſuch an homely meal. When he had nearly ſupped he wanted ſomething to drink, and, obſerving nothing but water upon the table, deſired one of the ſervants to bring him a little wine. Not as you value the life of this illuſtrious gentleman, cried out the phyſician. Sir, added he, turning to his gueſt, it is with inexpreſſible reluctance that I con-

contradict you, but wine would be at preſent a mortal poiſon; therefore, pleaſe to content yourſelf, for one night only, with a glaſs of this moſt excellent and refreſhing mineral water. The gentleman was again compelled to ſubmit, and drank the water with a variety of ſtrange grimaces. After the cloth was removed, Signor Ramozini entertained the gentleman with ſome agreeable and improving converſation, for about an hour, and then propoſed to his patient that he ſhould retire to reſt. This propoſal the gentleman gladly accepted, as he found himſelf fatigued with his journey, and unuſually diſpoſed to ſleep. The doctor then retired, and ordered one of his ſervants to ſhow the gentleman to his chamber. He was accordingly conducted into a neighbouring room, where there was little to be ſeen, but a homely bed, without furniture, with nothing to ſleep upon but a matraſs almoſt as hard as the floor. At this the gentleman burſt into a violent paſſion again: Villain, ſaid he to the ſervant, it is impoſſible

ble your maſter ſhould dare to confine me to ſuch a wretched dog-hole! ſhow me into another room immediately! Sir, anſwered the ſervant with profound humility, I am heartily ſorry the chamber does not pleaſe you; but I am morally certain I have not miſtaken my maſter's order, and I have too great a reſpect for you to think of diſobeying him in a point, which concerns your precious life. Saying this, he went out of the room, and, ſhutting the door on the outſide, left the gentleman to his meditations. They were not very agreeable at firſt; however, as he ſaw no remedy, he undreſſed himſelf and entered the wretched bed, where he preſently fell aſleep, while he was meditating revenge upon the doctor and his whole family.

The gentleman ſlept ſo ſoundly that he did not awake till morning, and then the phyſician came into his room, and with the greateſt tenderneſs and civility inquired after his health. He had indeed fallen aſleep in very ill humour, but his night's reſt had

had much compoſed his mind, and the effect of this was increaſed by the extreme politeneſs of the doctor; ſo that he anſwered with tolerable temper, only making bitter complaints of the homelineſs of his accommodation. My deareſt ſir, anſwered the phyſician, did I not make a previous agreement with you, that you ſhould ſubmit to my management? Can you imagine that I have any other end in view than the improvement of your health? It is not poſſible that you ſhould in every thing perceive the reaſons of my conduct, which is founded upon the moſt accurate theory and experience. However, in this caſe, I muſt inform you that I have found out the art of making my very beds medicinal; and this you muſt confeſs, from the excellent night you have paſſed. I cannot impart the ſame ſalutary virtues to down or ſilk, and therefore, though very much againſt my inclinations, I have been compelled to lodge you in this homely manner. But now, if you pleaſe, it is time to riſe. Ramozini then

then rang for his ſervants, and the gentleman ſuffered himſelf to be dreſſed. At breakfaſt the gentleman expected to fare a little better; but his relentleſs guardian would ſuffer him to taſte nothing but a ſlice of bread and a porringer of water-gruel, all which he defended, very little to his gueſt's ſatisfaction, upon the moſt unerring principles of medical ſcience.

After breakfaſt had been ſome time finiſhed, doctor Ramozini told his patient it was time to begin the great work of reſtoring him to the uſe of his limbs. He accordingly had him carried into a little room, where he deſired the gentleman to attempt to ſtand. That is impoſſible, anſwered the patient, for I have not been able to uſe a leg theſe three years. Prop yourſelf, then, upon your crutches, and lean againſt the wall to ſupport yourſelf, anſwered the phyſician: the gentleman did ſo, and the doctor went abruptly out, and locked the door after him. He had not been long in this ſituation, before he felt the floor of the chamber,

chamber, which he had not before perceived, to be compoſed of plates of iron, grow immoderately hot under his feet. He called the doctor and his ſervants, but to no purpoſe; he then began to utter loud vociferations and menaces, but all was equally ineffectual; he raved, he ſwore, he promiſed, he entreated, but nobody came to his aſſiſtance, and the heat grew more intenſe every inſtant. At length neceſſity compelled him to hop upon one leg in order to reſt the other, and this he did with greater agility than he could conceive was poſſible; preſently the other leg began to burn, and then he hopped again upon the other. Thus he went on hopping about, with this involuntary exerciſe, till he had ſtretched every ſinew and muſcle more than he had done for ſeveral years before, and thrown himſelf into a profuſe perſpiration. When the doctor was ſatisfied with the exertions of his patient, he ſent into the room an eaſy chair for him to reſt upon, and ſuffered the floor to cool as gradually as it had been heated.

heated. Then it was that the ſick man for the firſt time began to be ſenſible of the real uſe and pleaſure of repoſe; he had earned it by fatigue, without which it can never prove either ſalutary or agreeable. At dinner, the doctor appeared again to his patient, and made him a thouſand apologies for the liberties he had taken with his perſon; theſe excuſes he received with a kind of ſullen civility; however, his anger was a little mitigated by the ſmell of a roaſted pullet, which was brought to table and ſet before him. He now, from exerciſe and abſtinence, began to find a reliſh in his victuals which he had never done before, and the doctor permitted him to mingle a little wine with his water. Theſe compliances however were ſo extremely irkſome to his temper, that the month ſeemed to paſs away as ſlowly as a year. When it was expired, and his ſervants came to aſk his orders, he inſtantly threw himſelf into his carriage without taking leave either of the doctor or his family. When he came to reflect upon the

treatment

treatment he had received, his forced exerciſes, his involuntary abſtinence, and all the other mortifications he had undergone, he could not conceive but it muſt be a plot of the phyſician he had left behind, and, full of rage and indignation, drove directly to his houſe in order to reproach him with it. The phyſician happened to be at home, but ſcarcely knew his patient again, though after ſo ſhort an abſence. He had ſhrunk to half his former bulk, his look and colour were mended, and he had entirely thrown away his crutches. When he had given vent to all that his anger could ſuggeſt, the phyſician coolly anſwered in the following manner: I know not, ſir, what right you have to make me theſe reproaches, ſince it was not by my perſuaſion that you put yourſelf under the care of doctor Ramozini. Yes, ſir, but you gave me an high character of his ſkill and integrity. Has he then deceived you in either, or do you find yourſelf worſe than when you put yourſelf under his care? I cannot ſay that, anſwered the gentleman.

I am,

I am, to be ſure, ſurpriſingly improved in my digeſtion; I ſleep better than ever I did before; I eat with an appetite; and I can walk almoſt as well as ever I could in my life. And do you ſeriouſly come, ſaid the phyſician, to complain of a man that has effected all theſe miracles for you in ſo ſhort a time, and, unleſs you are now wanting to yourſelf, has given you a degree of life and health which you had not the ſmalleſt reaſon to expect?—The gentleman, who had not ſufficiently conſidered all theſe advantages, began to look a little confuſed, and the phyſician thus went on: All that you have to complain of is, that you have been involuntarily your own dupe, and cheated into health and happineſs. You went to doctor Ramozini, and ſaw a parcel of miſerable wretches comfortably at dinner. That great and worthy man is the father of all about him: he knows that moſt of the diſeaſes of the poor originate in their want of food and neceſſaries; and therefore benevolently aſſiſts them with better diet and clothing.

The rich, on the contrary, are generally the victims of their own ſloth and intemperance; and therefore he finds it neceſſary to uſe a contrary method of cure—exerciſe, abſtinence, and mortification. You, ſir, have been indeed treated like a child, but it has been for your own advantage. Neither your bed, nor meat, nor drink, has ever been medicated; all the wonderful change that has been produced, has been by giving you better habits, and rouſing the ſlumbering powers of your own conſtitution. As to deception, you have none to complain of, except what proceeded from your own fooliſh imagination; which perſuaded you that a phyſician was to regulate his conduct by the folly and intemperance of his patient. As to all the reſt, he only promiſed to exert all the ſecrets of his art for your cure; and this, I am witneſs, he has done ſo effectually, that were you to reward him with half your fortune, it would hardly be too much for his deſerts.

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The gentleman, who did not want either ſenſe or generoſity, could not help feeling the force of what was ſaid. He therefore made an handſome apology for his behaviour, and inſtantly diſpatched a ſervant to doctor Ramozini, with a handſome preſent, and a letter expreſſing the higheſt gratitude. And ſo much ſatisfaction did he find in the amendment of his health and ſpirits, that he never again relapſed into his former habits of intemperance, but, by conſtant exerciſe and uniform moderation, continued free from any conſiderable diſeaſe to a very comfortable old age.

Indeed, ſaid Tommy, this is a very diverting, comical ſtory, and I ſhould like very much to tell it to the gouty gentlemen that come to our houſe. That, anſwered Mr. Barlow, would be highly improper, unleſs you were particularly deſired. Thoſe gentlemen cannot be ignorant that ſuch unbounded indulgence of their appetites can only tend to increaſe the diſeaſe, and therefore you could teach them nothing new

upon the ſubject. But it would appear highly improper in ſuch a little boy as you, to take upon him to inſtruct others, while he all the time wants ſo much inſtruction himſelf. Thus, continued Mr. Barlow, you ſee by this ſtory, which is applicable to half the rich in moſt countries, that intemperance and exceſs are full as dangerous as want and hardſhip. As to the Laplanders, whom you were in ſo much pain about, they are ſome of the healthieſt people which the world produces. They generally live to an extreme old age, free from all the common diſeaſes which we are acquainted with, and ſubject to no other inconveniency than blindneſs, which is ſuppoſed to ariſe from the continual proſpect of ſnow, and the conſtant ſmoke with which they are ſurrounded in their huts.

Some few days after this converſation, when the ſnow was a good deal worn away, though the froſt and cold continued, the two little boys went out to take a walk. Inſenſibly they wandered ſo far that they ſcarcely knew their way, and therefore re-

ſolved

ſolved to return as ſpeedily as poſſible. But, unfortunately, in paſſing through a wood, they entirely miſſed the track and loſt themſelves. To add to their diſtreſs, the wind began to blow moſt bitterly from the north, and a violent ſhower of ſnow coming on, obliged them to ſeek the thickeſt ſhelter they could find. There happened fortunately to be near an aged oak, whoſe inſide gradually decaying was worn away by time, and afforded an ample opening to ſhelter them from the ſtorm. Into this the two little boys crept ſafe, and endeavoured to keep each other warm, while a violent ſhower of ſnow and ſleet fell all around, and gradually covered the earth. Tommy, who had been little uſed to hardſhip, bore it for ſome time with fortitude, and without uttering a complaint. At length hunger and fear took entire poſſeſſion of his ſoul, and turning to Harry with watery eyes and a mournful voice, he aſked him what they ſhould do. Do? ſaid Harry; we muſt wait here, I think, till the weather clears up a little, and then we will endeavour to find the way home.

TOMMY.

But what if the weather ſhould not clear up at all?

HARRY.

In that caſe we muſt either endeavour to find our way through the ſnow, or ſtay here, where we are ſo conveniently ſheltered.

TOMMY.

But oh! what a dreadful thing it is to be here all alone in this dreary wood! And then I am ſo hungry, and ſo cold: oh! that we had but a little fire to warm us!

HARRY.

I have heard that ſhipwrecked perſons, when they have been caſt away upon a deſert coaſt, have made a fire to warm themſelves by rubbing two pieces of wood together till they caught fire; or, here is a better thing, I have a large knife in my pocket, and if I could but find a piece of flint, I could eaſily ſtrike fire with the back of it.

Harry then ſearched about, and with ſome little difficulty found a couple of flints, as the

the ground was nearly hidden with ſnow. He then took the flints, and ſtriking one upon the other with all his force, he ſhivered them into ſeveral pieces; out of theſe he choſe the thinneſt and ſharpeſt, and told Tommy with a ſmile, that he believed that would do. He then took the flint, and ſtriking it ſeveral times againſt the back of his knife, produced ſeveral ſparks of fire. This, ſaid Harry, will be ſufficient to light a fire, if we can but find ſomething of a ſufficient combuſtible nature to kindle from theſe ſparks. He then collected all the drieſt leaves he could find, with little decayed pieces of wood, and piling them into an heap, endeavoured to kindle a blaze by the ſparks which he continually ſtruck from his knife and the flint. But it was in vain; the leaves were not of a ſufficiently combuſtible nature, and while he wearied himſelf in vain, they were not at all the more advanced. Tommy, who beheld the ill ſucceſs of his friend, began to be more and more terrified, and in deſpair aſked Harry again

what they ſhould do. Harry anſwered, that, as they had failed in their attempt to warm themſelves, the beſt thing they could do, was to endeavour to find their way home, more eſpecially as the ſnow had now ceaſed, and the ſky was become much clearer. This Tommy conſented to, and with infinite difficulty they began their march; for, as the ſnow had completely covered every track, and the daylight began to fail, they wandered at random through a vaſt and pathleſs wood. At every ſtep which Tommy took, he ſunk almoſt to his knees in ſnow, the wind was bleak and cold, and it was with infinite difficulty that Harry could prevail upon him to continue his journey. At length, however, as they thus purſued their way, with infinite toil, they came to ſome lighted embers, which either ſome labourers, or ſome wandering paſſengers, had lately quitted, and which were yet unextinguiſhed. See, ſaid Harry, with joy, ſee what a lucky chance is this! Here is a fire ready lighted for us, which needs only the

the aſſiſtance of a little wood to make it burn. Harry then again collected all the dry pieces he could find, and piled them upon the embers, which in a few moments began to blaze, and diffuſed a cheerful warmth. Tommy then began to warm and chafe his almoſt frozen limbs over the fire with infinite delight; at length he could not help obſerving to Harry, that he never could have believed that a few dried ſticks could have been of ſo much conſequence to him. Ah! anſwered Harry, Maſter Tommy, you have been brought up in ſuch a manner, that you never knew what it was to want any thing. But that is not the caſe with thouſands and millions of people. I have ſeen hundreds of poor children that have neither bread to eat, fire to warm, nor clothes to cover them. Only think, then, what a diſagreeable ſituation they muſt be in: yet they are ſo accuſtomed to hardſhip, that they do not cry in a twelvemonth as much as you have done within this quarter of an hour.

Why, anſwered Tommy, a little diſconcerted at the obſervation of his crying, it cannot be expected that gentlemen ſhould be able to bear all theſe inconveniences as well as the poor. Why not? anſwered Harry: Is not a gentleman as much a man as the poor can be? And, if he is a man, ſhould he not accuſtom himſelf to ſupport every thing that his fellow-creatures do?

TOMMY.

That is very true—But he will have all the conveniences of life provided for him, victuals to eat, a good warm bed, and fire to warm him.

HARRY.

But he is not ſure of having all theſe things as long as he lives.—Beſides, I have often obſerved the gentlemen and ladies in our neighbourhood, riding about in coaches, and covered from head to foot, yet ſhaking with the leaſt breath of air as if they all had agues; while the children of the poor run about bare-footed upon the ice, and divert themſelves with making ſnow-balls.

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

That is indeed true; for I have ſeen my mother's viſitors ſitting over the warmeſt fire that could be made, and complaining of cold, while the labourers out of doors were ſtripped to their ſhirts to work, and never minded it in the leaſt.

HARRY.

Then I ſhould think that exerciſe, by which a perſon can warm himſelf when he pleaſes, is infinitely a better thing than all theſe conveniences you ſpeak of; becauſe, after all, they will not hinder a perſon from being cold, but exerciſe will warm him in an inſtant.

TOMMY.

But then it is not proper for gentlemen to do the ſame kind of work with the common people.

HARRY.

But is it not proper for a gentleman to have his body ſtout and hardy?

TOMMY.

To be ſure it is.

HARRY.

Why then he muſt ſometimes labour and uſe his limbs, or elſe he will never be able to do it.

TOMMY.

What, cannot a perſon be ſtrong without working?

HARRY.

You can judge for yourſelf. You very often have fine young gentlemen at your father's houſe, and are any of them as ſtrong as the ſons of the farmers in the neighbourhood, that are always uſed to handle an hoe, a ſpade, a fork, and other tools?

TOMMY.

Indeed, I believe that is true, for I think I am become ſtronger myſelf, ſince I have learned to divert myſelf in Mr. Barlow's garden.

As they were converſing in this manner, a little boy came ſinging along, with a bundle of ſticks at his back, and as ſoon as Harry ſaw him he recollected him, and

and cried out, As I am alive here is Jacky Smithers, the little ragged boy that you gave the clothes to in the ſummer; he lives, I dare ſay, in the neighbourhood, and either he, or his father, will now ſhow you the way home. Harry then ſpoke to the boy, and aſked him if he could ſhow them the way out of the wood. Yes, ſurely I can, anſwered the boy, but I never ſhould have thought of ſeeing maſter Merton out ſo late, in ſuch a tempeſtuous night as this. But, if you will come with me to my father's cottage, you may warm yourſelf at our fire, and father will run to Mr. Barlow to let him know you are ſafe. Tommy accepted the offer with joy, and the little boy led them out of the wood, and in a few minutes they came to a ſmall cottage which ſtood by the ſide of the road. When they entered, they ſaw a middle-aged woman buſy in ſpinning; the eldeſt girl was cooking ſome broth over the fire; the father was ſitting in the chimney-corner, and reading a book,

while

while three or four ragged children were tumbling upon the floor, and creeping between their father's legs. Daddy, ſays the little boy, as he came in, here is maſter Merton, that was ſo good to us all in the ſummer. He has loſt his way in the wood, and is almoſt periſhed in the ſnow. The man upon this aroſe, and with much civility deſired the two little boys to ſeat themſelves by the fire, while the good woman ran to fetch her largeſt faggot, which ſhe threw upon the fire, and created a cheerful blaze in an inſtant. There, my dear little maſter, ſaid ſhe, you may at leaſt refreſh yourſelf a little by our fire, and I wiſh I had any thing to offer you that you could eat. But I am afraid you would never be able to bear ſuch coarſe brown bread as we poor folks are obliged to eat. Indeed, ſaid Tommy, my good mother, I have faſted ſo long, and am ſo hungry, that I think I could eat any thing. Well then, anſwered the woman, here is a little bit of gammon of bacon, which I will

will broil for you upon the embers, and if you can make a ſupper you are heartily welcome.

While the good woman was thus preparing ſupper, the man had cloſed his book, and placed it with great reſpect upon a ſhelf; which gave Tommy the curioſity to aſk him what he was reading about. Maſter, anſwered the man, I am reading the book which teaches me my duty towards man, and my obligations to God; I was reading the Goſpel of Jeſus Chriſt, when you came in, and teaching it to my children.

TOMMY.

Indeed I have heard of that good book: Mr. Barlow has often read part of it to me, and promiſed I ſhould read it myſelf. That is the book they read at church; I have often heard Mr. Barlow read it to the people; and he always reads it ſo well and ſo affectingly, that every body liſtens, and you may hear even a pin drop upon the pavement.

THE MAN.

Yes, maſter, Mr. Barlow is a worthy ſervant and follower of Jeſus Chriſt himſelf. He is the friend of all the poor in the neighbourhood. He gives us food and medicines when we are ill; he employs us when we can find no work. But what we are even more obliged to him for, than the giving us food and raiment, and life itſelf, he inſtructs us in our duty, makes us aſhamed of our faults, and teaches us how we may be happy not only here, but in another world. I was once an idle, abandoned man myſelf, given up to ſwearing and drinking, neglecting my family, and taking no thought for my poor wife and children. But ſince Mr. Barlow has taught me better things, and made me acquainted with this bleſſed book, my life and manners, I hope, are much amended, and I do my duty better to my poor family. That indeed you do, Robin, anſwered the woman; there is not now a better and kinder huſband in the world: you have not waſted an idle penny

or

or a moment's time, theſe two years; and without that unfortunate fever, which prevented you from working laſt harveſt, we ſhould have the greateſt reaſon to be all contented. Have we not the greateſt reaſon now, anſwered the man, to be not only contented, but thankful for all the bleſſings we enjoy? It is true, that I and ſeveral of the children, were ill this year for many weeks; but did we not all eſcape, through the bleſſing of God, and the care of good Mr. Barlow, and this worthy Maſter Sandford, who brought us victuals ſo many days, with his own hands, when we otherwiſe ſhould perhaps have ſtarved? Have I not had very good employment ever ſince, and do I not now earn ſix ſhillings a week, which is a very comfortable thing, when many poor wretches as good as I, are ſtarving becauſe they cannot find employment?

Six ſhillings a week! ſix ſhillings a week! anſwered Tommy in amazement; and is that all you and your wife and children have to live on for a whole week?

THE MAN.

Not all, maſter; my wife ſometimes earns a ſhilling or eighteen-pence a week by ſpinning; and our eldeſt daughter begins to do ſomething that way, but not much.

TOMMY.

That makes ſeven ſhillings and ſixpence a week. Why, I have known my mother give more than that, to go to a place where outlandiſh people ſing. I have ſeen her and other ladies give a man a guinea for dreſſing their hair. And I knew a little miſs, whoſe father gives half a guinea a time to a little Frenchman, that teaches her to jump and caper about the room.

Maſter, replied the man ſmiling, theſe are great gentlefolks that you are talking about; they are very rich, and have a right to do what they pleaſe with their own. It is the duty of us poor folks to labour hard, take what we can get, and thank the great and wiſe God, that our condition is no worſe.

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

What, and is it poſſible that you can thank God for living in ſuch a houſe as this, and earning ſeven ſhillings and ſixpence a week?

THE MAN.

To be ſure I can, maſter. Is it not an act of his goodneſs, that we have clothes and a warm houſe to ſhelter us, and wholeſome food to eat? It was but yeſterday that two poor men came by, who had been caſt away in a ſtorm, and loſt their ſhip and all they had. One of theſe poor men had ſcarcely any clothes to cover him, and was ſhaking all over with a violent ague, and the other had his toes almoſt mortified by walking bare-footed in the ſnow. Am I not a great deal better off than theſe poor men, and perhaps than a thouſand others, who are at this time toſt about upon the waves, or caſt away, or wandering about the world, without a ſhed to cover them from the weather, or impriſoned for debt? Might I not have gone on in committing bad actions, like many other unhappy men, till I had been

been guilty of ſome notorious crime, which might have brought me to a ſhameful end? And ought I not to be grateful for all theſe bleſſings, which I poſſeſs without deſerving them?

Tommy, who had hitherto enjoyed all the good things of this life, without reflecting from whom he had received them, was very much ſtruck with the piety of this honeſt and contented man; but as he was going to anſwer, the good woman, who had laid a clean though coarſe cloth upon her table, and taken up her ſavoury ſupper in an earthen plate, invited them to ſit down; an invitation which both the boys obeyed with the greateſt pleaſure, as they had eaten nothing ſince the morning. In the mean time the honeſt man of the houſe had taken his hat, and walked to Mr. Barlow's to inform him that his two pupils were ſafe in the neighbourhood. Mr. Barlow had long ſuffered the greateſt uneaſineſs at their abſence, and, not contented with ſending after them on every ſide, was at that very time

buſy

buſy in the purſuit; ſo that the man met him about half way from his own houſe. As ſoon as Mr. Barlow heard the good news, he determined to return with the man, and reached his houſe juſt as Tommy Merton had finiſhed one of the heartieſt meals he had ever made. The little boys roſe up to meet Mr. Barlow, and thanked him for his kindneſs, and the pains he had taken to look after them, expreſſing their concern for the accident which had happened, and the uneaſineſs which, without deſigning it, they had occaſioned: but he, with the greateſt good-nature, adviſed them to be more cautious for the future, and not to extend their walks ſo far; then thanking the worthy people of the houſe, he offered to conduct them; and they all three ſet out together, in a very cold, but fine and ſtar-light evening. As they went home, he renewed his caution, and told them the dangers they had incurred. Many people, ſaid he, in your ſituation, have been ſurpriſed by an unexpected ſtorm, and loſing

their

their way have periſhed with cold. Sometimes both men and beaſts, not being able to diſcern their accuſtomed track, have fallen into deep pits filled up and covered with the ſnow, where they have been found buried ſeveral feet deep and frozen to death. And is it impoſſible, ſaid Tommy, in ſuch a caſe to eſcape? In general it is, ſaid Mr. Barlow, but there have been ſome extraordinary inſtances of perſons who have lived ſeveral days in that condition, and yet been taken out alive; to-morrow you ſhall read a remarkable ſtory to that purpoſe.

As they were thus walking on, Tommy looked up at the ſky, where all the ſtars glimmered with unuſual brightneſs, and ſaid, What an innumerable quantity of ſtars is here! I think I never obſerved ſo many before in all my life! Innumerable as they appear to you, ſaid Mr. Barlow, there are perſons that have not only counted all you now ſee, but thouſands more which are at preſent inviſible to your eye. How

can

can that be? anſwered Tommy; for there is neither beginning nor end. They are ſcattered ſo confuſedly about the ſky, that I ſhould think it as impoſſible to number them as the flakes of ſnow that fell to-day, while we were in the wood. At this Mr. Barlow ſmiled, and ſaid, that he believed Harry could give him a different account, although perhaps he could not number them all. Harry, ſaid he, cannot you ſhow your companion ſome of the conſtellations? Yes, anſwered Harry, I believe I remember ſome, that you have been ſo good to teach me. But pr y, ſir, ſaid Tommy, what is a conſtellation? Thoſe, anſwered Mr. Barlow, that firſt began to obſerve the heavens, as you do now, have obſerved certain ſtars, remarkable either for their brightneſs or poſition. To theſe they have given a particular na.e, that they might the more eaſily know them again, and diſcourſe of them to others; and theſe particular clu ers of ſtars thus joined together and named, they cal. conſtellations.

But

But come, Harry, you are a little farmer, and can certainly point out to us Charles's wain. Harry then looked up to the ſky, and pointed out ſeven very bright ſtars towards the north. You are right, ſaid Mr. Barlow; four of theſe ſtars have put the common people in mind of the four wheels of a waggon, and the three others of the horſes; therefore, they have called them by this name. Now, Tommy, look well at theſe, and ſee if you can find any ſeven ſtars in the whole ſky, that reſemble them in their poſition.

TOMMY.

Indeed, ſir, I do not think I can.

Mr. BARLOW.

Do you not think, then, that you can find them again?

TOMMY.

I will try, ſir.—Now, I will take my eye off, and look another way.—I proteſt I cannot find them again.—Oh! I believe there they are—Pray, ſir (pointing with his finger), is not that Charles's wain?

Mr. BARLOW.

You are right; and by remembering theſe ſtars, you may very eaſily obſerve thoſe which are next to them, and learn their names too, till you are acquainted with the whole face of the heavens.

TOMMY.

That is indeed very clever and very ſurpriſing. I will ſhow my mother Charles's wain the firſt time I go home: I dare ſay ſhe has never obſerved it.

Mr. BARLOW.

But look on the two ſtars which compoſe the hinder wheel of the waggon, and raiſe your eye up towards the top of the ſky; do you not ſee a very bright ſtar, that ſeems to be almoſt, but not quite, in a line with the two others?

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir—I ſee it plain.

Mr. BARLOW.

That is called the pole-ſtar; it never moves from its place, and, by looking full at it, you may always find the north.

TOMMY.

Then, if I turn my face towards that ſtar, I always look to the north.

Mr. BARLOW.

You are right.

TOMMY.

Then I ſhall turn my back to the ſouth.

Mr. BARLOW.

You are right again; and now cannot you find the eaſt and weſt?

TOMMY.

Is not the eaſt where the ſun riſes?

Mr. BARLOW.

Yes; but there is no ſun to direct you now.

TOMMY.

Then, ſir, I cannot find it out.

Mr. BARLOW.

Do not you know, Harry?

HARRY.

I believe, ſir, that, if you turn your face to the north, the eaſt will be on the right hand, and the weſt on the left.

Mr.

Mr. BARLOW.

Perfectly right.

TOMMY.

That is very clever indeed; ſo then, by knowing the pole-ſtar, I can always find north, eaſt, weſt, and ſouth. But you ſaid that the pole-ſtar never moves; do the other ſtars, then, move out of their places?

Mr. BARLOW.

That is a queſtion you may learn to anſwer yourſelf, by obſerving the preſent appearance of the heavens; and then examining whether the ſtars change their places at any future time.

TOMMY.

But, ſir, I have thought that it would be a good contrivance, in order to remember their ſituations, if I were to draw them upon a bit of paper.

Mr. BARLOW.

But how would you do that?

TOMMY.

I would make a mark upon the paper for every ſtar in Charles's wain, and I would

place the marks juſt as I ſee the ſtars placed in the ſky, and I would entreat you to write the names for me, and this I would do till I was acquainted with all the ſtars in the heavens.

Mr. BARLOW.

That would be an excellent way; but you ſee a paper is flat: is that the form of the ſky?

TOMMY.

No, the ſky ſeems to riſe from the earth on every ſide like the dome of a great church.

Mr. BARLOW.

Then if you were to have ſome round body, I ſhould think it would correſpond to the different parts of the ſky, and you might place your ſtars with more exactneſs.

TOMMY.

That is true indeed, ſir; I wiſh I had juſt ſuch a globe.

Mr. BARLOW.

Well, juſt ſuch a globe I will endeavour to procure you.

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

Sir, I am much obliged to you, indeed. But what uſe is it of to know the ſtars?

Mr. BARLOW.

Were there no other uſe, I ſhould think there would be a very great pleaſure in obſerving ſuch a number of glorious, glittering bodies as are now above us. We ſometimes run to ſee a proceſſion of coaches, or a few people in fine clothes ſtrutting about: we admire a large room that is painted, and ornamented, and gilded; but what is there in all theſe things to be compared with the ſight of theſe luminous bodies that adorn every part of the ſky?

TOMMY.

That's true, indeed. My lord Wimple's great room, that I have heard all the people admire ſo much, is no more to be compared to it than the ſhabbieſt thing in the world.

Mr. BARLOW.

That is indeed true; but there are ſome, and thoſe very important, uſes to be derived

from an acquaintance with the ſtars. Harry, do you tell maſter Merton the ſtory of your being loſt upon the great moor.

HARRY.

You muſt know, maſter Tommy, that I have an uncle lives about three miles off, acroſs the great moor, that we have ſometimes walked upon. Now my father, as I am in general pretty well acquainted with the roads, very often ſends me with meſſages to my uncle. One evening I came there ſo late, that it was ſcarcely poſſible to get home again before it was quite dark: it was at that time in the month of October. My uncle wiſhed me very much to ſtay at his houſe all night, but that was not proper for me to do, becauſe my father had ordered me to come back. So I ſet out as ſoon as I poſſibly could; but juſt as had reached the heath, the evening grew extremely dark.

TOMMY.

And was not you frighted to find yourſelf all alone upon ſuch a diſmal place?

HARRY.

HARRY.

No; I knew the worſt that could happen would be that I ſhould ſtay there all night; and, as ſoon as ever the morning ſhone, I ſhould have found my way home. But, however, by the time that I had reached the middle of the heath, there came on ſuch a violent tempeſt of wind, blowing full in my face, accompanied with ſuch a ſhower, that I found it impoſſible to continue my way. So I quitted the track, which is never very eaſy to find, and ran aſide to an holly buſh, that was growing at ſome diſtance, in order to ſeek a little ſhelter. Here I lay, very conveniently, till the ſtorm was almoſt over; then I roſe and attempted to continue my way, but unfortunately I miſſed the track and loſt myſelf.

TOMMY.

That was a very diſmal thing indeed.

HARRY.

I wandered about a great while, but ſtill to no purpoſe: I had not a ſingle mark to

direct me, because the common is so extensive, and so bare either of trees or houses, that one may walk for miles and see nothing but heath and furzes. Sometimes I tore my legs in scrambling through great thickets of furze; now and then I plumped into a hole full of water, and should have been drowned if I had not learned to swim: so that at last, I was going to give it up in despair, when looking on one side, I saw a light at a little distance, which seemed to be a candle and lantern that somebody was carrying across the moor.

TOMMY.

Did not that give you very great comfort?

You shall hear, answered Harry smiling. At first I was doubtful whether I should go up to it: but I considered that it was not worth any body's pains to hurt a poor boy like me, and that no person who was out on any ill design, would probably choose to carry a light. So I determined boldly to go up to it and inquire the way.

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

And did the perſon with the candle and lantern direct you?

HARRY.

I began walking up towards it; when immediately the light, which I had firſt obſerved on my right hand, moving ſlowly along by my ſide, changed its direction, and went directly before me, with about the ſame degree of ſwiftneſs. I thought this very odd, but I ſtill continued the chaſe, and, juſt as I thought I had approached very near, I tumbled into another pit, full of water.

TOMMY.

That was unlucky indeed.

HARRY.

Well, I ſcrambled out, and very luckily on the ſame ſide with the light, which I began to follow again, but with as little ſucceſs as ever. I had now wandered many miles about the common; I knew no more where I was, than if I had been ſet down upon an unknown country: I had no

hopes of finding my way home, unleſs I could reach this wandering light; and, though I could not conceive that the perſon who carried it, could know of my being ſo near, he ſeemed to act as if he was determined to avoid me. However, I was reſolved to make one attempt, and therefore I began to run as faſt as I was able, hallooing out at the ſame time to the perſon that I thought before me, to entreat him to ſtop.

TOMMY.

And did he?

HARRY.

Inſtead of that, the light which had before been moving along a ſlow and eaſy pace, now began to dance along before me, ten times faſter than before: ſo that, inſtead of overtaking it, I found myſelf farther and farther behind. Still, however, I ran on, till I unwarily ſunk up to the middle in a large bog, out of which I at laſt ſcrambled with very great difficulty. Surpriſed at this, and not conceiving that any human

being could paſs over ſuch a bog as this, I determined to purſue it no longer. But now I was wet and weary; the clouds had indeed rolled away, and the moon and ſtars began to ſhine; I looked around me, and could diſcern nothing but a wide, barren country, without ſo much as a tree to ſhelter me, or any animal in ſight. I liſtened, in hopes of hearing a ſheep-bell, or the barking of a dog; but nothing met my ear, but the ſhrill whiſtling of the wind, which blew ſo cold and bleak along that open country, that it chilled me to the very heart. In this ſituation, I ſtopped a while to conſider what I ſhould do, and raiſing my eyes by accident to the ſky, the firſt object I beheld, was that very conſtellation of Charles's wain, and above it I diſcerned the pole-ſtar, glimmering, as it were, from the very top of heaven. Inſtantly a thought came into my mind: I conſidered, that when I had been walking along the road which led towards my uncle's houſe, I had often obſerved the pole-ſtar full before me; there-

fore it occurred to me, that if I turned my back exactly upon it, and went ſtraight forward in a contrary direction, it muſt lead me towards my father's houſe. As ſoon as I had formed this reſolution, I began to execute it. I was perſuaded I ſhould now eſcape, and therefore, forgetting my fatigue, I ran along as briſk as if I had but then ſet out. Nor was I diſappointed; for though I could ſee no tracks, yet taking the greateſt care always to go on in that direction, the moon afforded me light enough to avoid the pits and bogs, which are found in various parts of that wild moor; and when I had travelled as I imagined about three miles, I heard the barking of a dog, which gave me double vigour; and going a little farther, I came to ſome enclоſures at the ſkirts of the common, which I knew; ſo that I then with eaſe found my way home, after having almoſt deſpaired of doing it.

TOMMY.

Indeed, then, the knowledge of the pole-

ſtar

ſtar was of very great uſe to you. I am determined I will make myſelf acquainted with all the ſtars in the heavens. But did you ever find out what that light was, which danced before you in ſo extraordinary a manner?

HARRY.

When I came home my father told me it was what the common people call Jack of the lantern: and Mr. Barlow has ſince informed me, that theſe things are only vapours which riſe out of the earth, in moiſt and fenny places, although they have that bright appearance; and therefore told me, that many people, like me, who have taken them for a lighted candle, have followed them, as I did, into bogs and ditches.

Juſt as Harry had finiſhed his hiſtory, they arrived at Mr. Barlow's, and after ſitting ſome time and talking over the accidents of the day, the little boys retired to bed. Mr. Barlow was ſitting alone and reading in his parlour, when, to his great ſurpriſe, Tommy came running into the room,

room, half undreſt, and bawling out, Sir, ſir, I have found it out—they move! they move! —What moves? ſaid Mr. Barlow. Why, Charles's wain moves, anſwered Tommy. I had a mind to take one peep at the ſky before I went to bed, and I ſee that all the ſeven ſtars have moved from their places a great way higher up into the ſky. Well, ſaid Mr. Barlow, you are indeed right. You have done a vaſt deal to-day, and to-morrow we will talk over theſe things again.

When the morrow came, Tommy put Mr. Barlow in mind of the ſtory he had promiſed him, about the people buried in the ſnow. Mr. Barlow looked him out the book, but firſt ſaid, It is neceſſary to give you ſome explanation. The country where this accident happened, is a country full of rocks and mountains, ſo exceſſively high that the ſnow never melts upon their tops. Never, ſaid Tommy, not even in the ſummer? Not even in the ſummer. The vallies between theſe mountains are inhabited by a brave and induſtrious people; the ſides of them

too

too are cultivated; but the tops of the higheſt mountains are ſo extremely cold that the ice and ſnow never melt, but go on continually increaſing. During a great part of the winter, the weather is extremely cold, and the inhabitants confine themſelves within their houſes, which they have the art to render very comfortable. Almoſt all the roads are then impaſſable, and ſnow and ice afford the only proſpect. But when the year begins to grow warmer, the ſnow is frequently thawed upon the ſides of the mountains, and undermined by the torrents of water which pour down with irreſiſtible fury. Hence it frequently happens, that ſuch prodigious maſſes of ſnow fall down as are ſufficient to bury beaſts and houſes, and even villages themſelves, beneath them. It was in the neighbourhood of theſe prodigious mountains, which are called the Alps, that on the 19th of March 1755, a ſmall cluſter of houſes was entirely overwhelmed by two vaſt bodies of ſnow that tumbled down upon them from a greater height.

height. All the inhabitants were then within doors, except one Joſeph Rochia and his ſon, a lad of fifteen, who were on the roof of their houſe clearing away the ſnow which had fallen for three days inceſſantly. A prieſt going by to church, adviſed them to come down, having juſt before obſerved a body of ſnow tumbling from the mountain towards them. The man deſcended with great precipitation, and fled with his ſon he knew not whither; but ſcarce had he gone thirty or forty ſteps, before his ſon, who followed him, fell down: on which looking back, he ſaw his own and his neighbours' houſes, in which were twenty-two perſons in all, covered with a high mountain of ſnow. He lifted up his ſon, and reflecting that his wife, his ſiſters, two children, and all his effects were thus buried, he fainted away; but ſoon reviving got ſafe to a friend's houſe at ſome diſtance.

Five days after, Joſeph, being perfectly recovered, got upon the ſnow, with his ſon, and two of his wife's brothers, to try if he could

could find the exact place where his houſe ſtood; but after many openings made in the ſnow they could not diſcover it. The month of April proving hot, and the ſnow beginning to ſoften, he again uſed his utmoſt endeavours to recover his effects, and to bury, as he thought, the remains of his family. He made new openings, and threw in earth to melt the ſnow, which on the 24th of April was greatly diminiſhed. He broke through ice ſix Engliſh feet thick, with iron bars, thruſt down a long pole and touched the ground; but evening coming on, he deſiſted.

The next day, the brother of his wife, who had heard of the misfortunes of the family, came to the houſe where Joſeph was; and after reſting himſelf a little, went with him to work upon the ſnow, where they made another opening, which led them to the houſe they ſearched for; but finding no dead bodies in its ruins, they ſought for the ſtable, which was about two hundred and forty Engliſh feet diſtant, which

which having found, they heard a cry of, Help, my dear brother! Being greatly ſurpriſed as well as encouraged by theſe words, they laboured with all diligence till they had made a large opening, through which the brother immediately went down, where the ſiſter, with an agonizing and feeble voice, told him, I have always truſted in God and you, that you would not forſake me. The other brother and the huſband then went down, and found, ſtill alive, the wife about forty-five, the ſiſter about thirty-five, and the daughter about thirteen years old. Theſe they raiſed on their ſhoulders to men above, who pulled them up as if from the grave, and carried them to a neighbouring houſe: they were unable to walk, and ſo waſted that they appeared like mere ſkeletons. They were immediately put to bed, and gruel of rye-flour and a little butter was given to recover them. Some days after, the magiſtrate of the place came to viſit them, and found the wife ſtill unable to riſe from bed, or uſe her feet, from

the

the intenſe cold ſhe had endured, and the uneaſy poſture ſhe had been in. The ſiſter, whoſe legs had been bathed with hot wine, could walk with ſome difficulty, and the daughter needed no farther remedies.

On the magiſtrate's interrogating the women, they told him that on the morning of the 19th of March, they were in the ſtable, with a boy of ſix years old and a girl of about thirteen; in the ſame ſtable were ſix goats, one of which having brought forth two dead kids the night before, they went to carry her a ſmall veſſel of rye-flour gruel; there were alſo an aſs and five or ſix fowls. They were ſheltering themſelves in a warm corner of the ſtable till the church-bell ſhould ring, intending to attend the ſervice. The wife related, that wanting to go out of the ſtable to kindle a fire in the houſe of her huſband, who was clearing away the ſnow from the top of it, ſhe perceived a maſs of ſnow breaking down towards

towards the eaſt, upon which ſhe went back into the ſtable, ſhut the door, and told her ſiſter of it. In leſs than three minutes they heard the roof break over their heads, and alſo part of the ceiling. The ſiſter adviſed to get into the rack and manger, which they did. The aſs was tied to the manger, but got looſe by kicking and ſtruggling, and threw down the little veſſel, which they found, and afterwards uſed to hold the melted ſnow which ſerved them for drink.

Very fortunately the manger was under the main prop of the ſtable, and ſo reſiſted the weight of the ſnow. Their firſt care was to know what they had to eat. The ſiſter ſaid ſhe had fifteen cheſnuts in her pockets; the children ſaid they had breakfaſted, and ſhould want no more that day. They remembered there were 36 or 40 cakes in a place near the ſtable, and endeavoured to get at them, but were not able for the ſnow. They called often for help, but were heard by none. The ſiſter gave

gave the cheſnuts to the wife, and ate two herſelf, and they drank ſome ſnow-water. The aſs was reſtleſs, and the goats kept bleating for ſome days; after which they heard no more of them. Two of the goats, however, being left alive, and near the manger, they felt them, and found that one of them was big, and would kid, as they recollected, about the middle of April; the other gave milk, wherewith they preſerved their lives. During all this time they ſaw not one ray of light, yet for about twenty days they had ſome notice of night and day from the crowing of the fowls, till they died.

The ſecond day, being very hungry, they ate all the cheſnuts and drank what milk the goat yielded, being very near two pounds a day at firſt, but it ſoon decreaſed. The third day they attempted again, but in vain, to get at the cakes; ſo reſolved to take all poſſible care to feed the goats; for juſt above the manger was a hay-loft, where through a hole the ſiſter pulled down

hay

hay into the rack, and gave it to the goats as long as ſhe could reach it; and then, when it was beyond her reach, the goats climbed upon her ſhoulders, and reached it themſelves.

On the ſixth day the boy ſickened, and ſix days after deſired his mother, who all this time had held him in her lap, to lay him at his length in a manger. She did ſo, and taking him by the hand, felt it was very cold; ſhe then put her hand to his mouth, and finding that cold likewiſe, ſhe gave him a little milk; the boy then cried, Oh! my father is in the ſnow! Oh father! father! and then expired.

In the mean while the goats milk diminiſhed daily, and the fowls ſoon after dying, they could no longer diſtinguiſh night from day; but according to their reckoning, the time was near when the other goat would kid; this ſhe accordingly did ſoon, and the young one dying, they had all the milk for their own ſubſiſtence; ſo they found that the middle of April was come.

come. Whenever they called this goat, it would come and lick their faces and hands, and gave them every day two pounds of milk, on which account they ſtill bear the poor creature a great affection. This was the account which theſe poor people gave to the magiſtrate of their preſervation.

Dear heart! ſaid Tommy, when Mr. Barlow had finiſhed this account, what a number of accidents people are ſubject to in this world! It is very true, anſwered Mr. Barlow; but as that is the caſe, it is neceſſary to improve ourſelves in every manner, that we may be able to ſtruggle againſt them.

TOMMY.

Indeed, Sir, I begin to believe it is; for when I was leſs than I am now, I remember I was always fretful and hurting myſelf, though I had two or three people conſtantly to take care of me. At preſent, I ſeem as if I was quite another thing; I do not mind falling down and hurting myſelf,

myſelf, or cold, or wearineſs, or ſcarcely any thing which happens.

Mr. BARLOW.

And which do you prefer, to be as you are now, or as you were before?

TOMMY.

As I am now a great deal, ſir; for then I always had ſomething or another the matter with me. Sometimes I had a little cold, and then I was obliged to ſtay in for ſeveral days; ſometimes a little head-ache, and then I was forced to take phyſic. Sometimes the weather was too hot, then I muſt ſtay within; and the ſame if it was too cold. I uſed to be tired to death if I did but walk a mile; and I was always eating cake and ſweetmeats till I made myſelf ſick. At preſent I think I am ten times ſtronger and healthier than ever I was in my life. But what a terrible country that muſt be, where people are ſubject to be buried in that manner in the ſnow! I wonder any body will live there.

Mr.

Mr. Barlow.

The people that inhabit that country, are of a different opinion, and prefer it to all the countries in the world. They are great travellers, and many of them follow different profeſſions in all the different countries of Europe; but it is the only wiſh of almoſt all to return, before their death, to the mountains where they were born and have paſſed their youth.

Tommy.

I do not eaſily underſtand that. I have ſeen a great many ladies and little miſſes at our houſe, and whenever they were talking about the places where they ſhould like to live, I have always heard them ſay they hated the country of all things, though they were born and bred there. I have heard one ſay, that the country is odious, filthy, ſhocking, and abominable; another, that it is impoſſible to live any where but in London; and I remember once ſeeing a ſtrange lady, that wrote down her obſervations in a book, that ſaid the country was

all full of barbarians, and that no perſon of elegance (yes, that was her word) could bear it for a week.

Mr. BARLOW.

And yet there are thouſands who bear to live in it all their lives, and have no deſire to change. Should you, Harry, like to leave the country, and go to live in ſome town?

HARRY.

Indeed, ſir, I ſhould not; for then I muſt leave every thing I love in the world. I muſt leave my father and mother, who have been ſo kind to me; and you too, ſir, who have taken ſuch pains to improve me, and make me good. I am convinced that I never ſhall find ſuch friends again as long as I live; and what ſhould any body wiſh to live for, who has no friends? Beſides, there is not a field upon my father's farm that I do not prefer to every town I ever ſaw in my life.

TOMMY.

And have you ever been in any large town?

HARRY.

HARRY.

Once I was in Exeter, but I did not much like it: the houſes ſeemed to me to ſtand ſo thick and cloſe, that I think our hog-ſties would be almoſt as agreeable places to live in; and then there are little narrow alleys where the poor live; and the houſes are ſo high, that neither light nor air can ever get to them; and they moſt of them appeared ſo dirty and unhealthy, that it made my heart ache to look at them.—And then I walked along the ſtreets and peeped into the ſhops, and what do you think I ſaw?

TOMMY.

What?

HARRY.

Why, I ſaw great hulking fellows, as big as our plough-men and carters, with their heads all frizzled and curled like one of our ſheep's tails, that did nothing but finger ribands and caps for the women. This diverted me ſo, that I could not help laughing ready to ſplit my ſides. And

then, the gentlewoman at whoſe houſe I was, took me to a place, where there was a large room full of candles, and a great number of fine gentlemen and ladies all dreſſed out and ſhowy, that were dancing about as if they were mad. But at the door of this houſe there were twenty or thirty ragged, half-ſtarved women and children, that ſtood ſhivering in the rain, and begged for a bit of bread; but nobody gave it to them or took any notice of them. So then I could not help thinking that it would be a great deal better, if all the fine people would give ſome of their money to the poor, that they might have ſome clothes and victuals in their turn.

TOMMY.

That is indeed true. Had I been there, I ſhould have relieved the poor people;—for you know I am very good-natured and generous; but it is neceſſary for gentlemen to be fine and to dreſs well.

HARRY.

It may be ſo, but I never ſaw any great good

good come of it, for my part. As I was walking along the ſtreets one day, and ſtaring about, I met two very fine and dreſſy young gentlemen, that looked ſomething as you did, maſter Tommy, when you firſt came here; ſo I turned off from the foot-way to let them paſs; for my father always taught me to ſhow every civility to people in a higher ſtation: but that was not enough, it ſeems; for juſt as they paſſed by me, they gave me ſuch a violent puſh, that down I came into the channel, and dirtied myſelf all over from head to foot.

TOMMY.

And did they not beg your pardon for the accident?

HARRY.

Accident! It was no accident at all, for they burſt out into a fit of laughter, and called me little clod-pole. Upon which I told them, if I was a clod-pole, they had no buſineſs to inſult me; and then they came back, and one of them gave me a kick, and the other a ſlap on the face; but

I told them that was too much for me to bear, ſo I ſtruck them again; and we all three began fighting.

TOMMY.

What, both at once? That was a cowardly trick.

HARRY.

I did not much mind that, but there came up a fine, ſmart fellow, in white ſtockings and powdered hair, that it ſeems was their ſervant; and he was going to fall upon me too, but a man took my part, and ſaid I ſhould have fair play; ſo I fought them both till they did not chooſe to have any more; for, though they were ſo quarrelſome, they could not fight worth a farthing; ſo I let them go, and adviſed them not to meddle any more with poor boys that did nothing to offend them.

TOMMY.

And did you hear no more of theſe young gentlemen?

HARRY.

No, for I went home the next day, and never was I better pleaſed in my life.

When

When I came to the top of the great hill, from which you have a proſpect of our houſe, I really thought I ſhould have cried with joy. The fields looked all ſo pleaſant, and the cattle, that were feeding in them, ſo happy; and then every ſtep I took, I met with ſomebody or other I knew, or ſome little boy that I uſed to play with. Here is little Harry come back, ſaid one; How do ye do, how do ye do? cried a ſecond; and then a third ſhook hands with me; and the very cattle, when I went about to ſee them, ſeemed all glad that I was come home again.

Mr. BARLOW.

You ſee by this, that it is very poſſible for people to like the country and be happy in it. But as to the fine young ladies you talk of, the truth is, that they neither love, nor would be long contented in any place. Their whole happineſs conſiſts in idleneſs and finery. They have neither learned to employ themſelves in any thing uſeful, nor

to improve their minds. As to every kind of natural exercise, they are brought up with too much delicacy to be able to bear it; and from the improper indulgences they meet with, they learn to tremble at every trifling change of the seasons. With such dispositions, it is no wonder they dislike the country, where they find neither employment nor amusement. They wish to go to London, because there they meet with infinite numbers, as idle and frivolous as themselves; and these people mutually assist each other to talk about trifles and to waste their time.

TOMMY.

That is true, sir, really: for when we have a great deal of company, I have often observed that they never talked about any thing but eating or dressing, or men and women that are paid to make faces at the play-house, or a great room, called Ranelagh, where every body goes to meet his friends.

Mr.

Mr. BARLOW.

I believe Harry will never go there to meet his friends.

HARRY.

Indeed, ſir, I do not know what Ranelagh is; but all the friends I have are at home; and when I ſit by the fire-ſide on a winter's night, and read to my father, and mother, and ſiſters, as I ſometimes do, or when I talk with you and maſter Tommy upon improving ſubjects, I never deſire any other friends or converſation. But pray, ſir, what is Ranelagh?

Mr. BARLOW.

Ranelagh is a very large, round room, to which, at particular times of the year, great numbers of perſons go in their carriages, to walk about for ſeveral hours.

HARRY.

And does nobody go there that has not ſeveral friends? Becauſe maſter Tommy ſaid, that people went to Ranelagh to meet their friends.

Mr. Barlow ſmiled at this queſtion, and

anſwered: The room is generally ſo crowded, that people have little opportunity for any kind of converſation: they walk round and round in a circle, one after the other, juſt like horſes in a mill. When perſons meet that know each other, they perhaps ſmile and bow, but are ſhoved forward without having any opportunity to ſtop. As to friends, few people go to look for them there; and if they were to meet them, few would take the trouble of ſpeaking to them, unleſs they were dreſſed in a faſhionable manner, and ſeemed to be of conſequence.

HARRY.

That is very extraordinary indeed. Why, ſir, what can a man's dreſs have to do with friendſhip? Should I love you a bit better, if you were to wear the fineſt clothes in the world; or ſhould I like my father the better, if he were to put on a laced coat like Squire Chaſe? On the contrary, whenever I ſee people dreſſed very fine, I cannot help thinking of the ſtory you once read me, of Ageſilaus king of Sparta.

TOMMY.

What is that ſtory? Do pray let me hear it.

Mr. BARLOW.

To-morrow you ſhall hear it: at preſent we have read and converſed enough; it is better that you ſhould go out and amuſe yourſelves.

The little boys then went out, and returned to a diverſion they had been amuſing themſelves with for ſeveral days, the making a prodigious ſnow-ball. They had begun by making a ſmall globe of ſnow with their hands, which they turned over and over, till, by continually collecting freſh matter, it grew ſo large that they were unable to roll it any farther. Here, Tommy obſerved, that their labours muſt end, for it was impoſſible to turn it any longer. No, ſaid Harry, I know a remedy for that: ſo he ran, and fetched a couple of thick ſticks, about five feet long, and giving one of them to Tommy, he took

the other himſelf. He then deſired him to put the end of his ſtick under the maſs, while he did the ſame on his ſide, and then lifting at the other end, they rolled the heap forward with the greateſt eaſe. Tommy was extremely ſurpriſed at this, and ſaid: How can this be? We are not a bit ſtronger than we were before, and yet now we are able to roll this ſnow-ball along with eaſe, which we could not even ſtir before. That is very true, anſwered Harry, but it is owing to theſe ſticks. This is the way that the labourers move the largeſt trees, which, without this contrivance, they would not be able to ſtir. I am very much ſurpriſed at this, ſaid Tommy; I never ſhould have imagined that the ſticks would have given us more ſtrength than we had before. Juſt as he had ſaid this, by a violent effort, both their ſticks broke ſhort in the middle. This is no great loſs, obſerved Tommy, for the ends will do juſt as well as the whole ſticks. They then tried to ſhove the ball

again

again with the truncheons which remained in their hands, but to the new ſurpriſe of Tommy, they found they were unable to ſtir it. That is very curious indeed, ſaid Tommy; I find that only long ſticks are of any uſe. That, ſaid Harry, I could have told you before; but I had a mind you ſhould find it out yourſelf. The longer the ſtick is, provided it is ſufficiently ſtrong and you can manage it, the more eaſily will you ſucceed. This is really very curious, replied Tommy; but I ſee ſome of Mr. Barlow's labourers at work a little way off; let us go to them, and deſire them to cut us two longer ſticks, that we may try their effects. They then went up to the men who were at work; but here a new ſubject of admiration preſented itſelf to Tommy's mind. There was a root of a prodigious oak tree, ſo large and heavy, that half a dozen horſes would ſcarcely have been able to draw it along: beſides, it was ſo tough and knotty, that the ſharpeſt axe could hardly make any impreſſion upon it.

This

This a couple of old men were attempting to cleave in pieces, in order to make billets for Mr. Barlow's fire. Tommy, who thought their ſtrength totally diſproportionate to ſuch an undertaking, could not help pitying them, and obſerving, that certainly Mr. Barlow did not know what they were about, or he would have prevented ſuch poor, weak old men from fatiguing themſelves about what they never could perform. Do you think ſo? replied Harry; what would you t en ſay, if you were to ſee me, little as I am, perform this wonderful taſk, with the aſſiſtance of one of theſe good people? So he took up a wooden mallet, an inſtrument which, although much larger, reſembles an hammer, and began beating the root, which he did for ſome time without making the leaſt impreſſion. Tommy, who imagined that for this time his friend Harry was caught, began to ſmile, and told him that he would break an hundred mallets to pieces before he made the leaſt impreſſion upon the wood.

Say

Say you ſo? anſwered Harry ſmiling; then I believe I muſt try another method: ſo he ſtooped down and picked up a ſmall piece of tough iron, about ſix inches long, which Tommy had not obſerved before as it lay upon the ground. This iron was broad at the top, but gradually ſloped all the way down, till it came to a perfect edge at bottom. Harry took this up, and with a few blows drove it a little way into the body of the root. The old man and he then ſtruck alternately with their mallets upon the head of the iron, till the root began to gape and crack on every ſide, and the iron was totally buried in the wood. There, ſays Harry, this firſt wedge has done its buſineſs very well; two or three more will finiſh it. He then took up another larger wedge, and inſerting the bottom of it between the wood and the top of the former one, which was now completely buried in the root, began to beat upon it as he had done before. The root now cracked and ſplit on every ſide of the wedges, till a prodigious cleft

cleft appeared quite down to the bottom. Thus did Harry proceed, ſtill continuing his blows, and inſerting new and larger wedges, as faſt as he had driven the former down, till he had completely effected what he had undertaken, and entirely ſeparated the monſtrous maſs of wood into two unequal parts. Harry then ſaid, Here is a very large log, but I think you and I can carry it in to mend the fire, and I will ſhow you ſomething elſe that will ſurpriſe you. So he took a pole of about ten feet long, and hung the log upon it by a piece of cord which he found there; then he aſked Tommy which end of the pole he choſe to carry. Tommy, who thought it would be moſt convenient to have the weight near him, choſe that end of the pole near which the weight was ſuſpended, and put it upon his ſhoulder; while Harry took the other end. But when Tommy attempted to move, he found that he could hardly bear the preſſure; however, as he ſaw Harry walk briſkly away under his ſhare of the load, he determined

not to complain. As they were walking along in this manner, Mr. Barlow met them, and ſeeing poor Tommy labouring under his burden, aſked him who had loaded him in that manner. Tommy ſaid it was Harry. Upon this Mr. Barlow ſmiled, and ſaid, Well, Tommy, this is the firſt time I ever ſaw you friend Harry attempt to impoſe upon you, but he is making you carry about three times the weight which he ſupports himſelf. Harry replied, that Tommy had choſen that himſelf; and that he ſhould directly have informed him of his miſtake, but that he had been ſo ſurpriſed at ſeeing the common effects of a lever, that he wiſhed to teach him ſome other facts about it; then ſhifting the ends of the pole, ſo as to ſupport that part which Tommy had done before, he aſked him if he found his ſhoulder any thing eaſier than before. Indeed I do, replied Tommy, but I cannot conceive how; for we carry the ſame weight between us which we did before, and juſt in the ſame manner. Not

quite

quite in the ſame manner, anſwered Mr. Barlow; for, if you obſerve, the log is a great deal farther from your ſhoulder than from Harry's; by which means he now ſupports juſt as much as you did before, and you, on the contrary, as little as he did when I met you. This is very extraordinary indeed, ſaid Tommy: I find there are a great many things which I did not know, nor even my mamma, nor any of the fine ladies that come to our houſe. Well, replied Mr. Barlow, if you have acquired ſo much uſeful knowledge already, what may you expect to do in a few years more? —He then led Tommy into the houſe, and ſhowed him a ſtick of about four feet long, with a ſcale hung at each end. Now, ſaid he, if you place this ſtick over the back of a chair, ſo that it may reſt exactly upon the middle, you ſee the two ſcales will juſt balance each other. So if I put into each of them an equal weight, they will ſtill remain ſuſpended. In this method, we weigh every thing which is bought; only

for

for the greater convenience, the beam of the ſcale, which is the ſame thing as this ſtick, is generally hung up to ſomething elſe by its middle. But let us now move the ſtick, and ſee what will be the conſequence. Mr. Barlow then puſhed the ſtick along in ſuch a manner, that when it reſted upon the back of the chair, there were three feet of it on one ſide, and only one on the other. That ſide which was longeſt inſtantly came to the ground as heavieſt. You ſee, ſaid Mr. Barlow, if we would now balance them, we muſt put a greater weight on the ſhorteſt ſide; ſo he kept adding weights, till Tommy found that one pound on the longeſt ſide would exactly balance three on the ſhorteſt; for, as much as the longer ſide exceeded the ſhorter in length, ſo much did the weight which was hung at that end, require to exceed that on the longeſt ſide.

This, ſaid Mr. Barlow, is what they call a lever; and all the ſticks that you have been uſing to-day, are only levers of a different

ferent conſtruction. By theſe ſhort trials, you may conceive the prodigious advantage which they are of to men. For, thus can one man move a weight, which half a dozen would not be able to do with their hands alone. Thus may a little boy, like you, do more than the ſtrongeſt man could effect, who did not know theſe ſecrets. As to that inſtrument, by which you were ſo ſurpriſed that Harry could cleave ſo vaſt a body of wood, it is called a wedge, and is almoſt equally uſeful with the lever. The whole force of it conſiſts in its being gradually narrower and narrower, till at laſt it ends in a thin edge capable of penetrating the ſmalleſt chink. By this we are enabled to overthrow the largeſt oaks, to cleave their roots almoſt as hard as iron itſelf, and even to ſplit the ſolid rocks. All this, ſaid Tommy, is wonderful indeed; and I need not aſk the uſe of them, becauſe I ſee it plainly in the experiments I have made to-day. One thing more, added Mr. Barlow, as we are upon this ſubject, I will ſhow

you:

you: ſo he led them into the yard, to the bottom of his granary, where ſtood a heavy ſack of corn. Now, ſaid Mr. Barlow, if you are ſo ſtout a fellow as you imagine, take up this ſack of corn, and carry it up the ladder into the granary. That, replied Tommy, laughing, is impoſſible; and I doubt, ſir, whether you could do it yourſelf. Well, ſaid Mr. Barlow, we will at leaſt try what is to be done. He then led them up into the granary, and ſhowing them a middle-ſized wheel with an handle fixed upon it, deſired the little boys to turn it round. They began to turn it with ſome little difficulty, and Tommy could hardly believe his eyes, when preſently after he ſaw the ſack of corn, which he had deſpaired of moving, mounted up into the granary and ſafely landed upon the floor. You ſee, ſaid Mr. Barlow, here is another ingenious contrivance, by which the weakeſt perſon may perform the work of the ſtrongeſt. This is called the wheel and axis. You ſee this wheel, which is not very large, turns round

round an axle which goes into it, and is much ſmaller, and at every turn the rope to which the weight is fixed that you want to move, is twiſted round the axle. Now, juſt as much as the breadth of the whole wheel is greater than that of the axle which it turns round, ſo much greater is the weight, that the perſon who turns it can move, than he could do without it. Well, ſaid Tommy, I ſee it is a fine thing indeed to acquire knowledge; for by theſe means, one not only increaſes one's underſtanding, but one's bodily ſtrength. But are there no more, ſir, of theſe ingenious contrivances? for I ſhould like to underſtand them all. Yes, anſwered Mr. Barlow, there are more; and all of them you ſhall be perfectly acquainted with in time; but for this purpoſe you ſhould be able to write, and comprehend ſomething of arithmetic.

TOMMY.

What is arithmeti , ſir?

Mr. BARLOW.

That is not ſo eaſy to make you underſtand

ſtand at once; I will however try to explain it. Do you ſee the grains of wheat, which lie ſcattered in the window?

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir.

Mr. BARLOW.

Can you count how many there are?

TOMMY.

There are juſt five and twenty of them.

Mr. BARLOW.

Very well. Here is another parcel: how many grains are there?

TOMMY.

Juſt fourteen.

Mr. BARLOW.

If there are fourteen grains in one heap, and twenty-five in the other, how many grains are there in all; or how many do fourteen and twenty-five make? Tommy was unable to anſwer, and Mr. Barlow propoſed the ſame queſtion to Harry, who anſwered, that together they made thirty-nine. Again, ſaid Mr. Barlow, I will put the

the two heaps together, and then how many will there be?

TOMMY.

Thirty-nine.

Mr. BARLOW.

Now look, I have juſt taken away nineteen from the number, how many do you think remain?

TOMMY.

I will count them.

Mr. BARLOW.

And cannot you tell without counting? How many are there, Harry?

HARRY.

Twenty, ſir.

Mr. BARLOW.

All this is properly the art of arithmetic, which is the ſame as that of counting, only it is done in a much ſhorter and eaſier way, without the trouble of having the things always before you. Thus, for inſtance, if you wanted to know how many barley-corns were in this ſack, you would perhaps

perhaps be a week in counting the whole number.

TOMMY.

Indeed I believe I ſhould.

Mr. BARLOW.

If you underſtood arithmetic you might do it in five minutes.

TOMMY.

That is extraordinary indeed; I can hardly conceive it poſſible.

Mr. BARLOW.

A buſhel of corn weighs about fifty pounds weight; this ſack contains four buſhels, ſo that there are juſt two hundred pounds weight in all. Now every pound contains ſixteen ounces; and ſixteen times two hundred makes thirty-two hundred ounces. So that you have nothing to do but to count the number of grains in a ſingle ounce, and there will be thirty-two hundred times that number in the ſack.

TOMMY.

I declare this is curious indeed, and I

ſhould like to learn arithmetic. Will Harry and you teach me, ſir?

Mr. Barlow.

You know we are always ready to improve you. But, before we leave this ſubject, I muſt tell you a little ſtory. There was a gentleman who was extremely fond of beautiful horſes, and did not grudge to give the higheſt prices for them. One day an horſe-courſer came to him, and ſhowed him one ſo handſome, that he thought it ſuperior to all he had ever ſeen before. He mounted him, and found his paces equally excellent; for, though he was full of ſpirit, he was gentle and tractable as could be wiſhed. So many perfections delighted the gentleman, and he eagerly demanded the price. The horſe-courſer anſwered that he would bate nothing of two hundred guineas; the gentleman, although he admired the horſe, would not conſent to give it, and they were juſt on the point of parting. As the man was turning his back, the gentleman called out to him, and ſaid, Is there no poſſible

poſſible way of our agreeing? for I would give you any thing in reaſon for ſuch a beautiful creature. Why, replied the dealer, who was a ſhrewd fellow, and perfectly underſtood calculation, if you do not like to give me two hundred guineas, will you give me a farthing for the firſt nail the horſe has in his ſhoe, two farthings for the ſecond, four for the third, and ſo go doubling throughout the whole twenty-four? for there are no more than twenty-four nails in all his ſhoes. The gentleman gladly accepted the condition, and ordered the horſe to be led away to his ſtables.

TOMMY.

This fellow muſt have been a very great blockhead, to aſk two hundred guineas, and then to take a few farthings for his horſe.

Mr. BARLOW.

The gentleman was of the ſame opinion; however, the horſe-courſer added, I do not mean, ſir, to tie you down to this laſt propoſal, which, upon conſideration, you

may like as little as the firſt; all that I require is, that if you are diſſatisfied with your bargain, you will promiſe to pay me down the two hundred guineas which I firſt aſked. This the gentleman willingly agreed to, and then called his ſteward to calculate the ſum, for he was too much of a gentleman to be able to do it himſelf. The ſteward ſat down with his pen and ink, and after ſome time gravely wiſhed his maſter joy, and aſked him in what part of England the eſtate was ſituated that he was going to purchaſe. Are you mad? replied the gentleman. It is not an eſtate, but an horſe, that I have juſt bargained for, and here is the owner of him, to whom I am going to pay the money. If there is any madneſs, ſir, replied the ſteward, it certainly is not on my ſide; the ſum you have ordered me to calculate, comes to juſt ſeventeen thouſand, four hundred, and ſeventy-ſix pounds, beſides ſome ſhillings and pence; and ſurely no man in his ſenſes would give this price for an horſe. The gentleman was more

ſurpriſed

ſurpriſed than he had ever been before, to hear the aſſertion of his ſteward; but, when upon examination he found it no more than the truth, he was very glad to compound for his fooliſh agreement, by giving the horſe-courſer the two hundred guineas and diſmiſſing him.

TOMMY.

This is quite incredible, that a farthing, juſt doubled a few times, ſhould amount to ſuch a prodigious ſum: however, I am determined to learn arithmetic, that I may not be impoſed upon in this manner; for I think a gentleman muſt look very ſilly in ſuch a ſituation.

Thus had Tommy a new employment and diverſion for the winter nights, the learning arithmetic. Almoſt every night did Mr. Barlow, and Harry, and he, amuſe themſelves with little queſtions that related to numbers: by which means Tommy became in a ſhort time ſo expert, that he could add, ſubtract, multiply, or divide, almoſt any given ſum,

with little trouble and great exactneſs. But he did not for this forget the employment of obſerving the heavens. Every night when the ſtars appeared bright, and the ſky unclouded, Harry and he obſerved the various figures and poſitions of the conſtellations. Mr. Barlow gave him a little paper globe, as he had promiſed, and Tommy immediately marked out upon the top, his firſt and favourite conſtellation of Charles's wain. A little while after that, he obſerved on the other ſide of the pole-ſtar, another beautiful aſſemblage of ſtars, which was always oppoſite to Charles's wain: this, Mr. Barlow told him, was called Caſſiopeia's chair; and this, in a ſhort time, was added to the collection. One night, as Tommy was looking up to the ſky, in the ſouthern part of the heavens, he obſerved ſo remarkable a conſtellation that he could not help particularly remarking it: four large and ſhining ſtars compoſed the ends of the figure, which was almoſt ſquare, and full in the middle appeared three more placed in a ſlanting line and very near each other. This,

Tommy

Tommy pointed out to Mr. Barlow, and begged to know the name. Mr. Barlow anſwered, that the conſtellation was named Orion, and that the three bright ſtars in the middle were called his belt. Tommy was ſo delighted with the grandeur and beauty of this glorious conſtellation, that he could not help obſerving it, by intervals, all the evening; and he was ſurpriſed to ſee that it ſeemed to paſs on, in a right line drawn from eaſt to weſt, and that all the ſtars he had become acquainted with moved every night in the ſame direction.

But he did not forget to remind Harry, one morning, of the hiſtory he had promiſed to tell him of Ageſilaus. Harry told it in the following manner:

The Spartans, as I have before told you, maſter Tommy, were a brave and hardy people, that deſpiſed every thing that tended to make them delicate and luxuriöus. All their time was ſpent in ſuch exerciſes as made them ſtrong and active,

able to bear fatigue, and to deſpiſe wounds and danger: for they were ſituated in the midſt of ſeveral other nations, that frequently had quarrels with each other, and with them; and therefore it was neceſſary that they ſhould learn to defend themſelves. Therefore, all the children were brought up alike, and the ſons of their kings themſelves were as little indulged as any body elſe.

TOMMY.

Stop, ſtop!—I don't exactly underſtand that. I thought, a king was a perſon that dreſſed finer, and had leſs to do than any body elſe in the world. I have often heard my mamma and the ladies ſay, that I looked like a prince when I had fine clothes on: and therefore I thought that kings and princes never did any thing but walk about with crowns upon their heads, and eat ſweetmeats, all day long.

HARRY.

I do not know how that may be, but in Sparta the great buſineſs of the kings, for they

they had two, was to command them when they went out to war, or when they were attacked at home; and that, you know, they could not do without being brave and hardy themſelves. Now it happened that the Spartans had ſome dear friends and allies that lived at a diſtance from them, acroſs the ſea, who were attacked by a great and numerous nation, called the Perſians. So, when the Spartans knew the danger of their friends, they ſent over to their aſſiſtance Ageſilaus, one of their kings, together with a few thouſand of his countrymen; and theſe, they judged, would be a match for all the forces that could be brought againſt them by the Perſians, though ever ſo numerous. When the general of the Perſians ſaw the ſmall number of his enemies, he imagined it would be an eaſy matter to take them priſoners, or to deſtroy them. Beſides, as he was immenſely rich, and poſſeſſed a number of palaces furniſhed with every thing that was fine and coſtly, and had a great quantity of

gold, and ſilver, and jewels, and ſlaves, he could not conceive it poſſible that any body could reſiſt him. He therefore raiſed a large army, ſeveral times greater than that of the Spartans, and attacked Ageſilaus, who was not in the leaſt afraid of him: for the Spartans, joining their ſhields together, and marching ſlowly along in even ranks, fell with ſo much fury upon the Perſians, that in an inſtant they put them to flight.——Here Tommy interrupted the ſtory, to inquire what a ſhield was. Formerly, anſwered Mr. Barlow, before men were acquainted with the pernicious effects of gunpowder, they were accuſtomed to combat cloſe together, with ſwords or long ſpears; and for this reaſon, they covered themſelves in a variety of ways, to defend their bodies from the weapons of their enemies. The ſhield was worn upon their left arm, and compoſed of boards fixed together, and ſtrengthened with the hides of animals and plates of iron, ſufficiently long and broad to cover almoſt the whole

whole body of a man. When they went out to battle, they placed themſelves in even rows or ranks, with their ſhields extended before them, to ſecure them from the arrows and weapons of their enemies. Upon their heads they wore an helmet, which was a cap of iron or ſteel, ornamented with the waving feathers of birds or the tails of horſes. In this manner, with an even pace, marching all at once, and extending their ſpears before them, they went forward to meet their enemies.—I declare, ſaid Tommy, ſuch a fight muſt be prodigiouſly fine; and when I have accidentally met with ſoldiers myſelf, I thought they made ſuch a figure, walking erect with their arms all glittering in the ſun, that I have ſometimes thought I would be a ſoldier myſelf, whenever I grew big enough. And have you conſidered, anſwered Mr. Barlow, what is the buſineſs and generally the fate of a ſoldier? No, ſaid Tommy; I know that he muſt fight ſometimes: but what I though ſo pleaſant was, to march up and

down in a fine red coat, with colours flying and muſic playing, while all the ladies are looking on, and ſmiling, and bowing; for I have heard a great many of them ſay, they loved a ſoldier above all things. Well, ſaid Mr. Barlow, I will preſently endeavour to give you juſter ideas of what compoſes the life of a ſoldier; let Harry now go on with his ſtory.

When Pharnabazus, for that was the name of the Perſian general, obſerved that his troops were never able to ſtand againſt the Spartans, he ſent to Ageſilaus, and requeſted that they might have a meeting, in order to treat about terms of peace. This the Spartan conſented to, and appointed the time and place where he would wait for Pharnabazus. When the day came, Ageſilaus arrived firſt at the place of meeting, with the Spartans; but not ſeeing Pharnabazus, ſat down upon the graſs with his ſoldiers; and, as it was the hour of the army's making their repaſt, they pulled out their proviſions, which conſiſted of

ſome

ſome coarſe bread and onions, and began eating very heartily. In the middle of them ſat king Ageſilaus himſelf, in no wiſe diſtinguiſhed from the reſt, either by his clothing or his fare: nor was there in the whole army an individual, that more expoſed himſelf to every ſpecies of hardſhip, or that diſcovered leſs nicety than the king himſelf; by which means he was beloved and reverenced by all the ſoldiers, who were aſhamed of appearing leſs brave or patient than their general. It was not long that the Spartans had thus repoſed before the firſt ſervants of Pharnabazus arrived; who brought with them rich and coſtly carpets, which they ſpread upon the ground for their maſter to recline upon. Preſently arrived another troop, who began to erect a ſpacious tent with ſilken hangings, to ſcreen him and his train from the heat of the ſun. After this, came a company of cooks and confectioners, with a great number of loaded horſes, who carried upon their backs all the materials of an elegant entertainment.

tainment. Laſt of all appeared Pharnabazus himſelf, glittering with gold and jewels, and adorned with a long purple robe, after the faſhion of the Eaſt; he wore bracelets upon his arms, and was mounted upon a beautiful horſe, that was as gaudily attired as himſelf. As he approached nearer, and beheld the ſimple manners of the Spartan king and his ſoldiers, he could not help ſcoffing at their poverty, and making compariſons between their mean appearance and his own magnificence. All that were with him ſeemed to be infinitely diverted with the wit and acute remarks of their general, except a ſingle perſon, who had ſerved in the Grecian armies, and therefore was better acquainted with the manners and diſcipline of theſe people. This man was highly valued by Pharnabazus, for his underſtanding and honeſty, and, therefore, when he obſerved that he ſaid nothing, he inſiſted upon his declaring his ſentiments as the reſt had done. Since then, replied he, you command me to ſpeak my opinion,

O Phar-

O Pharnabazus, I muſt confeſs that the very circumſtance, which is the cauſe of ſo much mirth to the gentlemen that accompany you, is the reaſon of my fears. On our ſide, indeed, I ſee gold, and jewels, and purple in abundance; but when I look for men, I can find nothing but barbers, cooks, confectioners, fiddlers, dancers, and every thing that is moſt unmanly and unfit for war: on the Grecian ſide, I diſcern none of theſe coſtly trifles, but I ſee iron that forms their weapons, and compoſes impenetrable arms. I ſee men that have been brought up to deſpiſe every hardſhip, and to face every danger; that are accuſtomed to obſerve their ranks, to obey their leader, to take every advantage of their enemy, and to fall dead in their places rather than to turn their backs. Were the conteſt about who ſhould dreſs a dinner or curl hair with the greateſt nicety, I ſhould not doubt that the Perſians would gain the advantage: but, when it is neceſſary to contend in battle, where the prize is won by hardineſs and

and valour, I cannot help dreading men that are enured to wounds, and labours, and ſuffering; nor can I ever think that the Perſian gold will be able to reſiſt the Grecian iron. Pharnabazus was ſo ſtruck with the truth and juſtneſs of theſe remarks, that, from that very hour, he determined to contend no more with ſuch invincible troops; but bent all his cares towards making peace with the Spartans, by which means he preſerved himſelf and country from deſtruction.

You ſee by this ſtory, ſaid Mr. Barlow, that fine clothes are not always of the conſequence which you imagine, ſince they are not able to give their wearers either more ſtrength or courage than they had before, or to preſerve them from the attacks of thoſe whoſe appearance is more homely. —But ſince you are ſo little acquainted with the buſineſs of a ſoldier, I muſt ſhow you a little more clearly in what it conſiſts. Inſtead, therefore, of all this pageantry,

which ſeems ſo ſtrongly to have acted upon your mind, I muſt inform you that there is no human being expoſed to ſuffer a greater degree of miſery and hardſhip. He is often obliged to march whole days in the moſt violent heat, or cold, or rain, and frequently without victuals to eat or clothes to cover him. When he ſtops at night, the moſt that he can expect is a miſerable canvaſs tent to ſhelter him, that is penetrated in every part by the wet, and a little ſtraw to keep his body from the damp, unwholeſome earth. Frequently he cannot meet with even this, and is obliged to lie uncovered upon the ground; by which means he contracts a thouſand diſeaſes, which are more fatal than the cannon and weapons of the enemy. Every hour he is expoſed to engage in combats at the hazard of loſing his limbs, of being crippled or mortally wounded. If he gains the victory, he generally has only to begin again and fight anew, till the war is over; if he is beaten, he probably loſes his life upon

upon the ſpot, or is taken priſoner by the enemy: in which caſe he may languiſh ſeveral months in a dreary priſon, in want of all the neceſſaries of life.

Alas! ſaid Harry, what a dreadful picture do you draw of the fate of thoſe brave men who ſuffer ſo much to defend their country; ſurely, thoſe who employ them ſhould take care of them when they are ſick, or wounded, or incapable of providing for themſelves.

So indeed, anſwered Mr. Barlow, they ought to do. But raſh and fooliſh men engage in wars, without either juſtice or reaſon; and when they are over, they think no more of the unhappy people who have ſerved them at ſo much loſs to themſelves.

HARRY.

Why, ſir, I have often thought, that as all wars conſiſt in ſhedding blood and doing miſchief to our fellow-creatures, they ſeldom can be juſt.

Mr. BARLOW.

You are indeed right there.—Of all the blood

blood that has been ſhed ſince the beginning of the world to the preſent day, but very little indeed has been owing to any cauſe that had either juſtice or common ſenſe.

HARRY.

I then have thought, though I pity poor ſoldiers extremely, and always give them ſomething, if I have any money in my pocket, that they draw theſe miſchiefs upon themſelves, becauſe they endeavour to kill and deſtroy other people; and therefore, if they ſuffer the ſame evils in return, they can hardly complain.

Mr. BARLOW.

They cannot complain of the evils to which they voluntarily expoſe themſelves; but they may juſty complain of the ingratitude of the people for whom they fight, and who take no care of them afterwards.

HARRY.

Indeed, ſir, I think ſo. But I cannot conceive why people muſt hire others to fight for them. If it is neceſſary to fight, why

why do they not fight for themſelves?—I ſhould be aſhamed to go to another boy and ſay to him, Pray go and venture your life or limbs for me, that I may ſtay at home and do nothing.

TOMMY.

What, if the French were to come here, as they ſaid they were about to do, would you go out to fight them yourſelf?

HARRY.

I have heard my father ſay, that it was every man's duty to fight for his country, if it were attacked; and if my father went out to fight, I would go out with him. I would not willingly hurt any body; but if they attempt to hurt me or my countrymen, we ſhould do right to defend ourſelves. Should we not, ſir?

Mr. BARLOW.

This is certainly a caſe, where men have a right to defend themſelves. No man is bound to yield his life or property to another that has no right to take it. Among thoſe Grecians whom you were talking of, every

every man was a ſoldier, and always ready to defend his country whenever it was attacked.

HARRY.

Pray, dear ſir, read to maſter Tommy the ſtory of Leonidas, which gave me ſo much pleaſure; I am ſure he will like to hear it.

Mr. Barlow accordingly read

The Hiſtory of LEONIDAS, *King of* SPARTA.

THE king of Perſia commanded a great extent of territory, which was inhabited by many millions of people, and not only abounded in all the neceſſaries of life, but produced immenſe quantities of gold and ſilver, and every other coſtly thing. Yet all this did not ſatisfy the haughty mind of Xerxes, who at that time poſſeſſed the empire of this country. He conſidered that the Grecians, his neighbours, were free, and refuſed to obey his imperious orders; which he fooliſhly imagined all mankind

ſhould

ſhould reſpect. He therefore determined to make an expedition with a mighty army into Greece, and to conquer the country. For this reaſon he raiſed ſuch a prodigious army that it is almoſt impoſſible to deſcribe it. The numbers of men that compoſed it ſeemed ſufficient to conquer the whole world, and all the forces the Grecians were able to raiſe would ſcarcely amount to an hundredth part. Nevertheleſs, the Grecians held public councils to conſult about their common ſafety; and they nobly determined that as they had hitherto lived free, ſo they would either maintain their liberty, or bravely die in its defence. In the mean time Xerxes was continually marching forward, and at length entered the territory of Greece. The Grecians had not yet been able to aſſemble their troops or make their preparations, and therefore they were ſtruck with conſternation at the approach of ſuch an army as attended Xerxes. Leonidas was at that time king of Sparta, and, when he conſidered the ſtate of affairs, he ſaw one

one method alone by which the ruin of his country and all Greece could be prevented. In order to enter the more cultivated parts of this country, it was neceſſary for the Perſian army to march through a very rough and mountainous diſtrict, called Thermopylæ. There was only one narrow road through all theſe mountains, which it was poſſible for a very ſmall number of men to defend for ſome time againſt the moſt numerous army. Leonidas perceived, that if a ſmall number of reſolute men would undertake to defend this paſſage, it would retard the march of the whole Perſian army, and give the Grecians time to collect their troops. But who would undertake ſo deſperate an enterpriſe, where there was ſcarcely any poſſibility of eſcaping alive? For this reaſon, Leonidas determined to undertake the expedition himſelf, with ſuch of the Spartans as would voluntarily attend him, and to ſacrifice his own life for the preſervation of his country. With this deſign, he aſſembled the chief perſons of Sparta,

Sparta, and laid before them the neceſſity of defending the paſs of Thermopylæ. They were equally convinced of its importance, but knew not where to find a man of ſuch determined valour as to undertake it. Then, ſaid Leonidas, ſince there is no more worthy man ready to perform this ſervice, I myſelf will undertake it, with thoſe who will voluntarily accompany me. They were ſtruck with admiration at his propoſal, and praiſed the greatneſs of his mind, but ſet before him the certain deſtruction which muſt attend him. All this, ſaid Leonidas, I have already conſidered; but I am determined to go, with the appearance indeed of defending the paſs of Thermopylæ, but in reality to die for the liberty of Greece. Saying this, he inſtantly went out of the aſſembly, and prepared for the expedition, taking with him about three hundred Spartans. Before he went, he embraced his wife, who hung about him in tears, as well acquainted with the purpoſe of his march; but he endeavoured to comfort

comfort her, and told her that a ſhort life was well ſacrificed to the intereſts of his country, and that Spartan women ſhould be more careful about the glory than the ſafety of their huſbands. He then kiſſed his infant children, and charging his wife to educate them in the ſame principles he had lived in, went out of his houſe to put himſelf at the head of thoſe brave men who were to accompany him. As they marched through the city, all the inhabitants attended them with praiſes and acclamations. The young women ſang ſongs of triumph, and ſcattered flowers before them; the youths were jealous of their glory, and lamented that ſuch a noble doom had not rather fallen upon themſelves; while all their friends and relations ſeemed rather to exult in the immortal honour they were going to acquire, than to be dejected with the apprehenſions of their loſs. As they marched through Greece, they were joined by various bodies of their allies; ſo that their number amounted to about ſix

thouſand when they took poſſeſſion of the ſtraits of Thermopylæ.

In a ſhort time Xerxes approached, with his innumerable army, compoſed of various nations, and armed in a thouſand different manners. When he had ſeen the ſmall number of his enemies, he could not believe that they really meant to oppoſe his paſſage; but when he was told that this was ſurely their deſign, he ſent out a ſmall detachment of his troops, and ordered them to take thoſe Grecians alive, and bring them bound before him. The Perſian troops ſet out, and attacked the Grecians with conſiderable fury; but, in an inſtant, they were routed, the greater part ſlain, and the reſt obliged to fly. Xerxes was enraged at this misfortune, and ordered the combat to be renewed with greater forces. The attack was renewed, but always with the ſame ſucceſs, although he ſent the braveſt troops in his whole army. Thus was this immenſe army ſtopped in its career, and the pride of their monarch humbled, by ſo inconſider-

able

able a body of Grecians, that they were not at firſt thought worthy of a ſerious attack. At length, what Xerxes with all his troops was incapable of effecting, was performed by the treachery of ſome of the Grecians who inhabited that country. For a great reward they undertook to lead a choſen body of the Perſians acroſs the mountains by a ſecret path, with which they alone were acquainted. Accordingly, in the night the Perſians ſet out, paſſed over the mountains in ſafety, and encamped on the other ſide. As ſoon as day aroſe, Leonidas perceived that he had been betrayed, and that he was ſurrounded by the enemy: nevertheleſs, with the ſame undaunted courage he took all neceſſary meaſures, and prepared for the fate which he had long reſolved to meet. After praiſing and thanking the allies, for the bravery with which they had behaved, he ſent them all away to their reſpective countries. Many of the Spartans too, he would have diſmiſſed under various pretences; but they, who were all

determined rather to periſh with their king, that to return, refuſed to go. When he ſaw their reſolution, he conſented that they ſhould ſtay with him, and ſhare in his fate. All day, therefore, he remained quiet in his camp; but when evening approached, he ordered his troops to take ſome refreſhment, and ſmiling, told them to dine like men who were to ſup in another world. They then completely armed themſelves, and waited for the middle of the night, which Leonidas judged moſt proper for the deſign he meditated. He ſaw that the Perſians would never imagine it poſſible, that ſuch an inſignificant body of men ſhould think of attacking their numerous forces. He was therefore determined, in the ſilence of the night, to break into their camp, and endeavour, amid the terror and confuſion which would enſue, to ſurpriſe Xerxes himſelf. About midnight, therefore, this determined body of Grecians marched out with Leonidas at their head. They ſoon broke into the Perſian camp,

and

and put all to flight that dared to oppoſe them. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the terror and confuſion which enſued among ſo many thouſands, thus unexpectedly ſurpriſed. Still the Grecians marched on in cloſe, impenetrable order, overturning the tents, deſtroying all that dared to reſiſt, and driving that vaſt and mighty army like frightened ſheep before them. At length they came even to the imperial tent of Xerxes, and had he not quitted it at the firſt alarm, he would there have ended at once his life and expedition. The Grecians in an inſtant put all the guards to flight, and, ruſhing upon the imperial pavilion, violently overturned it, and trampled under their feet all the coſtly furniture and veſſels of gold, which were uſed by the monarchs of Perſia. But now the morning began to appear; and the Perſians, who had diſcovered the ſmall number of their aſſailants, ſurrounded them on every ſide, and, without daring to come to a cloſe engagement, poured in their darts and miſſive weapons. The Grecians were wearied

even with the toils of conqueſt, and their body was already conſiderably diminiſhed. Nevertheleſs, Leonidas, who was yet alive, led on the intrepid few that yet remained to a freſh attack. Again he ruſhed upon the Perſians, and pierced their thickeſt battalions as often as he could reach them. But valour itſelf was vain againſt ſuch inequality of numbers; at every charge the Grecian ranks grew thinner and thinner, till at length they were all deſtroyed, without a ſingle man having quitted his poſt, or turned his back upon the enemy.

Really, ſaid Tommy, when the hiſtory was finiſhed, Leonidas was a brave man indeed. But what became of Xerxes and his army after the death of this valiant Spartan? Was he able to overcome the Grecians, or did they repulſe him? You are now able to read, replied Mr. Barlow, for yourſelf, and therefore, by examining the hiſtories of thoſe countries, you may be informed of every thing you deſire.

And

And now the froſt had continued for ſeveral weeks, and Tommy had taken advantage of the evenings, which generally proved clear and ſtar-light, to improve his knowledge of the heavens. He had already ornamented his paper globe with ſeveral of the moſt remarkable conſtellations. Around the pole-ſtar he had diſcovered Perſeus and Andromeda, and Cepheus, and Caſſiopeia's chair. Between theſe and the bright Orion, which roſe every night and glittered in the ſouth, he diſcovered ſeven ſmall ſtars that were ſet in a cluſter, and called the Pleiades. Then, underneath Orion, he diſcovered another glittering ſtar, called Sirius or the Dog-ſtar. All theſe, he continually obſerved, journeyed every night from eaſt to weſt, and then appeared the evening after in their former places. How ſtrange it is, obſerved Tommy one day to Mr. Barlow, that all theſe ſtars ſhould be continually turning about the earth? How do you know, replied Mr. Barlow, that they turn at all?

TOMMY.

Becauſe I ſee them move every night.

Mr. BARLOW.

But, how are you ſure that it is the ſtars which move every night, and not the earth itſelf?

Tommy conſidered and ſaid, But then I ſhould ſee the earth move and the ſtars ſtand ſtill.

Mr. BARLOW.

What, did you never ride in a coach?

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir, very often.

Mr. BARLOW.

And did you then ſee that the coach moved, as you ſat ſtill and went along a level road?

TOMMY.

No, ſir, I proteſt I have often thought that the houſes, and trees, and all the country glided ſwiftly along by the windows of the coach.

Mr. BARLOW.

And did you never ſail in a boat?

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

Yes, I have, and I proteſt, I have obſerved the ſame thing; for I remember, I have often thought the ſhore was running away from the boat, inſtead of the boat from the ſhore.

Mr. BARLOW.

If that is the caſe, it is poſſible, even though the earth ſhould move, inſtead of the ſtars, that you might only ſee what you do at preſent, and imagine, that the earth you are upon was at reſt.

TOMMY.

But is it not more likely, that ſuch little things as the ſtars and ſun ſhould move, than ſuch a large thing as the earth?

Mr. BARLOW.

And how do you know that the ſtars and ſun are ſo ſmall?

TOMMY.

I ſee them to be ſo, ſir. The ſtars are ſo ſmall, that they are hardly to be ſeen at all; and the ſun itſelf, which is much larger,

does not ſeem bigger than a ſmall round table.

The day after this converſation, as the weather was bright and clear, Mr. Barlow went out to walk with Harry and Tommy. As, by this time, Tommy was enured to fatigue, and able to walk many miles, they continued their excurſion over the hills, till at laſt they came in ſight of the ſea. As they were diverting themſelves with the immenſe proſpect of water that was before them, Mr. Barlow perceived ſomething floating at a diſtance, ſo ſmall as to be ſcarcely diſcernible by the eye. He pointed it out to Tommy, who with ſome difficulty was able to diſtinguiſh it, and aſked him what he thought it was.

Tommy anſwered, that he imagined it to be ſome little fiſhing-boat, but could not well tell on account of the diſtance.

Mr. BARLOW.

If you do not then ſee a ſhip, what is it you do ſee, or what does that object appear to your eyes?

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

All that I can ſee, is no more than a little duſky ſpeck, which ſeems to grow bigger and bigger.

Mr. BARLOW.

And what is the reaſon it grows bigger and bigger?

TOMMY.

Becauſe it comes nearer and nearer to me.

Mr. BARLOW.

What, then, does the ſame thing ſometimes appear ſmall, and ſometimes great?

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir, it ſeems ſmall when it is at a great diſtance; for I have obſerved even houſes and churches, when you are at ſome miles diſtant, ſeem to the eye very ſmall indeed: and now I obſerved that the veſſel is ſailing towards us, and it is not, as I imagined, a little fiſhing-boat, but a ſhip with a maſt, for I begin to diſtinguiſh the ſails.

Mr. Barlow walked on a little while by the ſide of the ſea, and preſently Tommy

called out again: I proteſt, I was miſtaken again; for it is not a veſſel with one maſt, as I thought a little while ago, but a fine large ſhip with three great maſts, and all her ſails before the wind. I believe ſhe muſt either be a large merchant-man or elſe a frigate.

Mr. BARLOW.

Will you then take notice of what you have now been ſaying? What was firſt only a little duſky ſpeck, became a veſſel with one maſt, and now this veſſel with one maſt plainly appears a ſhip of a very large ſize, with all her maſts, and ſails, and rigging, complete. Yet all theſe three appearances are only the ſame object at different diſtances from your eye.

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir; that is all very true indeed.

Mr. BARLOW.

Why, then, if the ſhip, which is now full in ſight, were to tack about again, and ſail away from us as faſt as ſhe approached juſt now, what do you think would happen?

TOMMY.

TOMMY.

It would grow leſs and leſs, every minute, till it appeared a ſpeck again.

Mr. BARLOW.

You ſaid, I think, that the ſun was a very ſmall body, not bigger than a round table.

TOMMY.

Yes, ſir.

Mr. BARLOW.

Suppoſing then he were to be removed to a much greater diſtance than he is at now, what would happen? Would he appear the ſame to your eyes?

Tommy conſidered for ſome time, and then ſaid, If the ſhip grows leſs and leſs, till at laſt it appears a mere ſpeck, by going farther and farther, I ſhould think the ſun would do the ſame.

Mr. BARLOW.

There you are perfectly right; therefore, if the ſun were to depart farther and farther from us, at laſt he would appear no bigger than one of thoſe twinkling ſtars that you

you ſee at ſo great a diſtance above your head.

TOMMY.

That I perfectly comprehend.

Mr. BARLOW.

But if, on the contrary, one of thoſe twinkling ſtars were to approach nearer and nearer to where you ſtand, what do you think would happen? Would it ſtill appear of the ſame ſize?

TOMMY.

No, ſir. The ſhip as it came nearer to us appeared every moment larger, and therefore I think the ſtar muſt do the ſame.

Mr. BARLOW.

Might it not then at laſt appear as big as the ſun now does; juſt as the ſun would dwindle away to the ſize of a ſtar, were it to be removed to a ſtill greater diſtance?

TOMMY.

Indeed, I think it might.

Mr. BARLOW.

What then do you imagine muſt happen, could

could the ſun approach a great deal nearer to us? Would his ſize remain the ſame?

TOMMY.

No, I plainly ſee that he muſt appear bigger and bigger the nearer he comes.

Mr. BARLOW.

If that is the caſe, it is not ſo very certain that the earth we inhabit is bigger than the ſun and ſtars. They are at a very great diſtance from us; therefore, if any body could go from the earth towards the ſun, how do you think the earth would appear to him as he journeyed on?

TOMMY.

Really, I can hardly tell.

Mr. BARLOW.

No! Why, is it not the ſame thing, whether an object goes from you, or you from the object? Is there any difference between the ſhip's ſailing away from us, and our walking away from the ſhip?

TOMMY.

No, ſir.

Mr.

Mr. BARLOW.

Did you not ſay, that if the ſun could be removed farther from our eyes, it would appear leſs?

TOMMY.

To be ſure it would.

Mr. BARLOW.

Why then, if the earth were to ſink down from under our feet, lower and lower, what would happen? Would it have the ſame appearance?

TOMMY.

No, ſir; I think it muſt appear leſs and leſs, like the ſhip when it is ſailing away.

Mr. BARLOW.

Very right, indeed. But now attend to what I aſked you juſt now: if a perſon could riſe ſlowly into the air, and mount ſtill higher and higher, towards the ſun, what would happen?

TOMMY.

Why, the ſame as if the earth were to ſink from under us; it would appear leſs and leſs.

Mr.

Mr. Barlow.

Might not the earth then at leaſt appear as ſmall as the ſun or moon does?

Tommy.

I can hardly conceive that—And yet, I ſee it would appear leſs and leſs, the farther he went.

Mr. Barlow.

Do you remember what happened to you, when you left the iſland of Jamaica?

Tommy.

Yes, I do. One of the blacks held me upon the deck, and then I looked towards the iſland; and I thought that it began to move away from the ſhip, though, in reality, it was the ſhip moved away from the land. And then, as the ſhip continued ſailing along the water, the iſland appeared leſs and leſs. Firſt, I loſt ſight of the trees and houſe that ſtood upon the ſhore; and then I could only ſee the higheſt mountains; and then I could ſcarcely ſee the mountains themſelves; and, at laſt, the whole iſland appeared only like a dark miſt above the water;

water; and then the miſt itſelf diſappeared, and I could ſee nothing but a vaſt extent of water all round and the ſky above.

Mr. Barlow.

And muſt not this be exactly the caſe, if you could riſe up into the air, higher and higher, and look down upon the earth?

Tommy.

Indeed it muſt.

Mr. Barlow.

Now then you will be able to anſwer the queſtion I aſked you a little while ago: Could a perſon travel ſtraight forward from the earth to the ſun, how would they both appear to him as he went forward?

Tommy.

The earth would appear leſs and leſs as he went from it, and the ſun bigger and bigger.

Mr. Barlow.

Why, then, perhaps it would happen at laſt, that the ſun appeared bigger than the earth.

Tommy.

TOMMY.

Indeed it might.

Mr. BARLOW.

Then you ſee that you muſt no longer talk of the earth's being large, and the ſun ſmall, ſince that may only happen, becauſe you are near the one, and at a great diſtance from the other. At leaſt, you muſt now be convinced, that both the ſun and ſtars muſt be immenſely bigger than you would at firſt ſight gueſs them to be.

As they were returning home, they happened to paſs through a ſmall town in their way, and ſaw a crowd of people going into an houſe, which gave Mr. Barlow the curioſity to inquire the reaſon. They were told, that there was a wonderful perſon there, who performed a variety of ſtrange and diverting experiments. Upon Tommy's expreſſing a great deſire to ſee theſe curious exhibitions, Mr. Barlow took them both in, and they all ſeated themſelves among the audience. Preſently the per-

former began his exhibitions, which very much diverted Tommy, and ſurpriſed the ſpectators. At length, after a variety of curious tricks upon cards, the conjurer deſired them to obſerve a large baſin of water, with the figure of a little ſwan floating upon the ſurface. Gentlemen, ſaid the man, I have reſerved this curious experiment for the laſt, becauſe it is the moſt wonderful of all that I have to ſhow, or that, perhaps, was ever exhibited to the preſent hour. You ſee that ſwan; it is no more than a little image without either ſenſe or life. If you have any doubt upon the ſubject, take it up in your hands and examine it. Accordingly, ſeveral of the ſpectators took it up in their hands, and, after having examined it, ſet it down again upon the water. Now, continued he, this ſwan, which to you appears totally without ſenſe or motion, is of ſo extraordinary a nature, that he knows me, his maſter, and will follow in any direction that I command. Saying this, he took out a little piece of bread,

bread, and whiſtling to his bird, ordered him to come to the ſide of the baſin and be fed. Immediately, to the great ſurpriſe of all the company, the ſwan turned about and ſwam to the ſide of the baſin. The man whiſtled again, and preſently the ſwan turned himſelf round, and purſued the hand of his maſter to the other ſide of the baſin. The ſpectators could hardly believe their eyes, and ſome of them got little pieces of bread, and held them out, imagining that he would do the ſame to them. But it was in vain they whiſtled and preſented their bread; the bird remained unmoved upon the water, and obeyed no orders but thoſe of his maſter. When this exhibition had been repeated over and over again, to the extreme delight and aſtoniſhment of all preſent, the company roſe and diſperſed, and Mr. Barlow and the little boys purſued their way home.

But Tommy's mind was ſo engaged with what he had ſeen, that for ſeveral days he could think and talk of nothing elſe. He would

would give all that he had in the world, to find out this curious trick, and to be poſſeſſed of ſuch a ſwan. At length, as he was one day talking to Harry upon the ſubject, Harry told him with a ſmile, that he believed he had found out the method of doing it; and that if he did not miſtake, he would the next day ſhow him a ſwan that would come to be fed as well as the conjurer's. Accordingly, Harry moulded a bit of wax into the ſhape of a ſwan, and placed it upon a baſin of water. He then preſented to it a piece of bread, and, to the inexpreſſible delight of Tommy, the ſwan purſued the bread juſt as he had ſeen before. After he had ſeveral times diverted himſelf with this experiment, he wanted to be informed of the compoſition of this wonderful ſwan. Harry, therefore, ſhowed him, within the body of the bird, a large needle, which lay acroſs it from one end to the other. In the bread with which the ſwan was fed, he alſo ſhowed him concealed a ſmall bar of iron. Tommy could not comprehend all

this,

this, although he ſaw it before his eyes. But Mr. Barlow, who was preſent, taking up the bar of iron, and putting down ſeveral needles upon the table, Tommy was infinitely ſurpriſed to ſee the needles all jump up, one after another, at the approach of the bar, and ſhoot towards it as if they had been poſſeſſed of life and ſenſe. They then hung all about the bar ſo firmly, that, though it was lifted into the air, they all remained ſuſpended, nor ever quitted their hold. Mr. Barlow then placed a key upon the table, and putting the iron near it, the key attached itſelf as firmly to the bar as the needles had done before. All this appeared ſo ſurpriſing to Tommy, that he begged an explanation of it from Mr. Barlow. That gentleman told him, that there was a ſtone often found in iron mines that was called the loadſtone. This ſtone is naturally poſſeſſed of the ſurpriſing power of drawing to itſelf all pieces of iron that are not too large, nor placed at too great a diſtance. But what is equally extraordinary

nary is, that iron itſelf, after having been rubbed upon the loadſtone, acquires the ſame virtue as the ſtone itſelf, of attracting other iron. For this purpoſe, they take ſmall bars of iron and rub them carefully upon the loadſtone, and when they have acquired this very extraordinary power, they call them magnets. When Harry had ſeen the exhibition of the ſwan, upon revolving it over in his mind, he began to ſuſpect that it was performed entirely by the power of magnetiſm. Upon his talking to me about the affair, I confirmed him in his opinion, and furniſhed him with a ſmall magnet to put into the bread, and a large needle to conceal in the body of the bird. So this is the explanation of the feat, which ſo much puzzled you a few days paſt. Mr. Barlow had ſcarcely done ſpeaking, when Tommy obſerved another curious property of the ſwan, which he had not found out before. This bird, when left to itſelf, conſtantly reſted in one particular direction; and that direction was

full north and ſouth. Tommy inquired the reaſon of this, and Mr. Barlow gave him this additional explanation. The perſons that firſt diſcovered the wonderful powers of the loadſtone in communicating its virtues to iron, diverted themſelves, as we do now, in touching needles and ſmall pieces of iron, which they made to float upon water, and attracted them about with other pieces of iron. But it was not long before they found out, as you do now, another ſurpriſing property of this wonderful ſtone. They obſerved, that when a needle had once been touched by the loadſtone, if it was left to float upon the water without reſtraint, it would invariably turn itſelf towards the north. In a ſhort time, they improved the diſcovery farther, and contrived to ſuſpend the middle of the needle upon a point, ſo looſely that it could move about in every direction. This they covered with a glaſs caſe, and by this means they always had it in their power to find out all the quarters of the heavens and earth.

TOMMY.

Was this diſcovery of any great uſe?

Mr. BARLOW.

Before this time, they had no other method of finding their way along the ſea, but by obſerving the ſtars. They knew by experience, in what parts of the ſky certain ſtars appeared at every ſeaſon of the year, and this enabled them to diſcover eaſt, weſt, north, and ſouth. But when they ſet out from their own country by ſea, they knew in which direction the place was ſituated, which they were going to. If it lay to the eaſt, they had only to keep the head of the ſhip turned full to that quarter of the heavens, and they would arrive at the place they were going to; and this they were enabled to do by obſerving the ſtars. But frequently the weather was thick, and the ſtars no longer appeared; and then they were left to wander about the pathleſs ocean without the ſmalleſt track to guide them in their courſe.

TOMMY.

Poor people! they muſt be in a dreadful

ſituation indeed, toſt about on ſuch an immenſe place as the ſea, in the middle of a dark night, and not able even to gueſs at their ſituation.

Mr. Barlow.

For this reaſon they ſeldom dared to venture out of ſight of ſhore, for fear of loſing their way: by which means, all their voyages were long and tedious; for they were obliged to make them ſeveral times as long as they would have done, could they have taken the ſtraight and neareſt way. But ſoon after the diſcovery of this admirable property of the loadſtone, they found that the needle which had been thus prepared, was capable of ſhowing them the different points of the heavens even in the darkeſt night. This enabled them to ſail with greater ſecurity, and to venture boldly upon the immenſe ocean, which they had always feared before.

Tommy.

How extraordinary, that a little ſtone ſhould enable people to croſs the ſea and

to find their way from one country to the other! But I wonder why they take all theſe pains.

Mr. BARLOW.

That you need not wonder at, when you conſider that one country frequently produces what another does not; and therefore, by exchanging their different commodities, both may live more conveniently than they did before.

HARRY.

But does not almoſt every country produce all that is neceſſary to ſupport the inhabitants of it? and therefore they might live, I ſhould think, even though they received nothing from any other country.

Mr. BARLOW.

So might your father live perhaps upon the productions of his own farm; but he ſometimes ſells his cattle to purchaſe clothes; ſometimes his corn to purchaſe cattle. Then he frequently exchanges with his neighbours one kind of grain for another; and thus their mutual conveniency

is

is better promoted than if each were to confine himſelf to the produce of his own land. At the ſame time it is true, that every country which is inhabited by men, contains within itſelf all that is neceſſary for their ſubſiſtence; and what they bring from other countries, is frequently more hurtful than ſalutary to them.

HARRY.

I have heard you ſay that even in Greenland, the coldeſt and moſt uncomfortable country in the world, the inhabitants procure themſelves neceſſaries, and live contented.

TOMMY.

What, is there a part of the world ſtill colder than Lapland?

Mr. BARLOW.

Greenland is ſtill farther north, and therefore colder and more barren. The ground is there covered with eternal ſnows, which never melt even in the ſummer. There are ſcarcely any animals to be found excepting bears, that live by preying upon fiſh.

There are no trees grow upon any part of the country, ſo that the inhabitants have nothing to build their houſes with, excepting the planks and trees which the ſea waſhes away from other countries, and leaves upon their coaſt. With theſe they erect large cabins, where ſeveral families live together. The ſides of theſe huts are compoſed of earth and ſtones, and the top ſecured with turf; in a ſhort time the whole is ſo cemented with froſt, that it is impenetrable to the weather during the whole winter. Along the ſides of the building are made ſeveral partitions, in each of which a Greenlander lives with his family. Each of theſe families have a ſmall lamp continually burning before them, by means of which they cook their food and light themſelves, and, what is equally neceſſary in ſo cold a country, keep up an agreeable warmth throughout their apartment. They have a few deer which ſometimes viſit them in the ſummer, and which the Greenlanders kill whenever they can catch them; but they

they are almoſt entirely deſtitute of all the vegetables which ſerve as nouriſhment to man: ſo that they are obliged to be continually upon the ſea, in order to catch fiſh for their maintenance.

TOMMY.

What a dreadful life muſt that be in a country which is ſo cold!

Mr. BARLOW.

In conſequence of that extreme cold, thoſe northern ſeas are full of ſuch immenſe quantities of ice, that they areſometimes almoſt covered with them. Huge pieces come floating down, which are not only as big as the largeſt houſes, but even reſemble ſmall mountains. Theſe are ſometimes daſhed againſt each other by the winds, with ſuch immenſe force, that they would cruſh the ſtrongeſt ſhip to pieces, and with a noiſe that exceeds the report of a cannon. Upon theſe pieces of ice are frequently ſeen white bears of an enormous ſize; which have either fallen aſleep upon them, and ſo been carried away, or have

ſtraggled over thoſe icy hills in ſearch of fiſh.

TOMMY.

And is it poſſible that the inhabitants of ſuch a country can find enough in it for all their neceſſities?

Mr. BARLOW.

The neceſſities of life are very few, and are therefore to be found even in the moſt rugged climates, if men are not wanting to themſelves, or deficient in induſtry. In plentiful countries like this, and moſt of the more temperate climates, great numbers are maintained in idleneſs, and imagine that they are only born to live upon the labour of others. But in ſuch a country as Greenland is deſcribed to be, it requires continual exertion to procure the ſimpleſt ſupport of human life; and therefore no one can live at all, who will not employ himſelf in the ſame manner as his neighbours.

TOMMY.

You ſaid that theſe people had neither

fleſh

fleſh nor corn; do they then clothe themſelves with the ſkins of fiſh as well as live upon them?

Mr. BARLOW.

There is in thoſe ſeas a peculiar ſpecies of animal called a ſeal. He is nine or ten feet long, and has two ſmall feet before, on which he is able to walk a little upon the ſhore; for he frequently comes out of the ſea, and ſleeps, or amuſes himſelf upon the land, or ice. His body is very large, and full of oil, and behind he has two legs which reſemble fins, with which he ſwims in the water. This animal is the conſtant prey of the Greenlander, and furniſhes him with all he wants. The fleſh he eats, the fat ſerves him to feed his lamp, which is almoſt as neceſſary as food itſelf in that cold climate. With the ſkin he compoſes clothes that are impenetrable to the water, or lines the inſide of his hut to keep out the weather. As this animal is ſo neceſſary to the exiſtence of a Greenlander, it is his greateſt glory to chaſe and take him. For this pur-

poſe, he places himſelf in a ſmall narrow boat, the top of which is covered over with the ſkins of ſeals, and cloſes round the middle of the fiſher ſo tight as entirely to exclude the water. He has a long oar, or paddle, broad at both ends, which he dips firſt on one ſide, then on the other, and rows along with incredible ſwiftneſs, over the roughest ſeas. He carries with him an harpoon, which is a kind of lance, or javelin, tied to a long thong, at the end of which is fixed a bladder, or ſome other light thing that ſinks with difficulty. When the fiſherman is thus prepared, he ſkims lightly along the waters, till he perceives at a diſtance one of theſe animals floating upon the ſurface. The Greenlander then approaches him as ſoftly as he is able, and, if poſſible, contrives that the animal ſhall have the wind and ſun in his eyes. When he is ſufficiently near, he throws his harpoon, and generally wounds the creature; in which caſe, he inſtantly hurries away, and carries with him the thong and bladder.

But

But it is not long before he is compelled to riſe again to the ſurface of the water to breathe; and then the Greenlander, who has been purſuing him all the time, attacks him anew, and diſpatches him with a ſhorter lance, which he has brought with him for that purpoſe. He then ties his prey to his boat, and tows it after him to his family, who receive it with joy, and dreſs it for his ſupper. Although theſe poor people live a life of ſuch continual fatigue, and are obliged to earn their food with ſo much hardſhip, they are generous and hoſpitable in the management of it; for not a perſon preſent but is invited to partake of the feaſt: and a Greenlander would think himſelf diſhonoured for life, that ſhould be thought capable of wiſhing to keep it all to himſelf.

TOMMY.

I think it ſeems as if the leſs people had, the more generous they are of it.

Mr. BARLOW.

That is not unfrequently the caſe, and ſhould be a leſſon to many of our rich at

home, who imagine that they have nothing to do with their fortune but to throw it away upon their pleaſures; while there are ſo many thouſands in want of the common neceſſaries of life.

TOMMY.

But pray, ſir, have you no more particulars to tell me about theſe Greenlanders? For I think it is the moſt curious account I ever heard in my life.

Mr. BARLOW.

There is another very curious particular indeed to be mentioned of theſe countries: in theſe ſeas is found the largeſt animal in the world; an immenſe fiſh which is called the whale.

TOMMY.

Oh dear! I have heard of that extraordinary animal. And pray, ſir, do the Greenlanders ever catch them?

Mr. BARLOW.

The whale is of ſuch a prodigious ſize, that he ſometimes reaches ſeventy or eighty, or even more than an hundred feet in length.

He

He is from ten to above twenty feet in height, and every way large in proportion. When he ſwims along the ſeas, he appears rather like a large veſſel floating upon the waters, than a fiſh. He has two holes in his head, through which he blows out water to a great height in the air, immenſe fins, and a tail with which he almoſt raiſes a tempeſt when he laſhes the ſea with it. Would you not believe that ſuch an animal was the moſt dreadful of the whole brute creation?

TOMMY.

Indeed, ſir, I ſhould; I ſhould think that ſuch a fiſh would overſet whole ſhips, and devour the ſailors.

Mr. BARLOW.

Far from it—it is one of the moſt innocent in reſpect to man, that the ocean produces; nor does he ever do him the leaſt hurt, unleſs by accidentally overturning veſſels with his enormous bulk. The food he lives upon is chiefly ſmall fiſh, and particularly herrings. Theſe fiſh are bred in ſuch prodigious ſhoals, amid the ice of thoſe

thoſe northern climates, that the ſea is abſolutely covered with them for miles together. Then it is that the hungry whale purſues them, and thins their numbers, by ſwallowing thouſands of them in their courſe.

HARRY.

What numbers indeed muſt ſuch a prodigious fiſh devour of thoſe ſmall animals!

Mr. BARLOW.

The whale in his turn falls a prey to the cruelty and avarice of man. Some indeed are caught by the Greenlanders, who have a ſufficient excuſe for perſecuting him with continual attacks, in their total want of vegetables and every ſpecies of food which the earth affords. But the Europeans, who are too nice and ſqueamiſh to eat his fleſh, ſend out great numbers of ſhips, every year, to deſtroy the poor whale, merely for the ſake of the oil which his body contains, and the elaſtic bones which are known by the name of whale-bone, and applied to ſeveral purpoſes. When thoſe that go upon this

this dangerous expedition diſcern a whale floating at a diſtance, they inſtantly ſend out a large boat to purſue him. Some of the men row along as gently as poſſible, while the perſon that is appointed to attack the fiſh ſtands upon the fore-part of the boat, holding in his hand a ſharp harpoon, with which he is prepared to wound his prey. This is faſtened to a long cord which lies ready coiled up in the boat, ſo that they may let it out in an inſtant, when the fiſh is ſtruck; for ſuch is his prodigious force, that ſhould the leaſt impediment occur to ſtop the rope in its paſſage, he would inſtantly draw the boat after him down to the bottom of the ſea. In order to prevent theſe dangerous accidents, a man ſtands conſtantly ready to divide the rope with an hatchet, in caſe it ſhould happen to tangle; and another is continually pouring water over it, for fear the ſwiftneſs of the motion ſhould make it take fire. The poor whale that is thus wounded darts away with an inconceivable rapidity, and generally plunges

to

to the bottom of the ſea. They have a prodigious quantity of cord ready to let out, and when their ſtore is exhauſted, there are generally other boats ready to ſupply more. Thus is the poor animal overpowered and killed, in ſpite of his immenſe bulk and irreſiſtible ſtrength; for, gradually wearied with his own efforts and the loſs of blood, he ſoon relaxes in his ſpeed, and riſes again to the top of the water. Then it is that the fiſhers, who have purſued him all the time with the hopes of ſuch an opportunity, approach him anew, and attack him with freſh harpoons; till in the end his ſtrength is entirely exhauſted, the waves themſelves are tinged with a bloody colour from his innumerable wounds, and he writhes himſelf about in ſtrong convulſions and unutterable pain. Then the conflict is ſoon at an end; in a ſhort time he breathes his laſt, and turning upon his back, floats like ſome large veſſel upon the ſurface of the ſea. The fiſhers then approach, and cut off the fins and other valuable parts,

which

which they ſtow on board their ſhips; the fat, or blubber, as it is often called, is received into large hogſheads, and when boiled to purify it, compoſes the common oil which is applied to ſo many uſeful purpoſes. The remains of this vaſt body are left a prey to other fiſh and to the Greenlanders, who carefully collect every fragment which they can find, and apply it to their own uſe. Sometimes they go to purſue the whale themſelves; but when they do, it is in large numbers, and they attack him nearly in the ſame manner with the Europeans; only as they are not ſo well ſupplied with cord, they fix the ſkins of ſeals, which they have inflated with air, to the end of the thongs which are tied to their harpoons; and this ſerves both to weary out the fiſh, who drags them with him under the water, and to diſcover him the inſtant he approaches to the ſurface.

HARRY.

I cannot help pitying the poor whale that is thus perſecuted for the ſake of his ſpoils.

Why

Why cannot man let this poor beaſt live unmoleſted in the midſt of the ſnows and ice in which he was born?

Mr. BARLOW.

You ought to know enough of the world, to be ſenſible, that the deſire of gain will tempt men upon every expedition. However, in this caſe you muſt conſider, that the whale himſelf is continually ſupported by murdering thouſands of herrings and other ſmall fiſh; ſo that, were they poſſeſſed of reaſon, they would welcome the Europeans who came to deſtroy their enemies, as friends and benefactors.

TOMMY.

But pray, ſir, how do the little boys amuſe themſelves in ſuch a diſmal country? do their fathers take them out a-fiſhing with them?

Mr. BARLOW.

When the men come home all covered with wet and icicles, and ſit down comfortably in their huts to feaſt upon their prey, their common converſation is about the dangers

dangers and accidents they have met with in their expedition. A Greenlander relates, how he bounded over the waves to ſurpriſe a monſtrous ſeal; how he pierced the animal with his harpoon, who had liked to have dragged the boat with him under the water; how he attacked him again in cloſer combat: how the beaſt, enraged with his wounds, ruſhed upon him in order to deſtroy him with his teeth; and how in the end, by courage and perſeverance, he triumphed over his adverſary, and brought him ſafe to land. All this he relates with the vehemence and intereſt which people naturally feel for things which concern them nearly; he ſtands in the midſt of his countrymen, and deſcribes every minute circumſtance of his adventures. The little children gather round, and greedily catch the relation: they feel themſelves intereſted in every circumſtance; they hear, and wiſh to ſhare in the toils and glory of their fathers. When they are a little bigger, they exerciſe themſelves in ſmall ſkiffs, with which

which they learn to overcome the wave. Nothing can be more dangerous, or require greater dexterity than the management of a Greenlander's boat. The leaſt thing overſets it, and then the man, who cannot diſengage himſelf from the boat, which is faſtened to his middle, ſinks down below the waves, and is inevitably drowned if he cannot regain his balance. The only hope of doing this is placed in the proper application of his oar; and therefore the dexterous management of this implement forms the early ſtudy of the young Greenlanders. In their ſportive parties they row about in a thouſand different manners; they dive under their boats, and then ſet them to rights with their paddle; they learn to glide over the rougheſt billows, and face the greateſt dangers with intrepidity: till in the end they acquire ſufficient ſtrength and addreſs to fiſh themſelves, and to be admitted into the claſs of men.

HARRY.

Pray, ſir, is this the country where men travel

travel about upon ſledges that are drawn by dogs?

TOMMY.

Upon ſledges drawn by dogs? That muſt be droll indeed. I had no idea that dogs could ever draw carriages.

Mr. BARLOW.

The country you are ſpeaking of is called Kamtſchatka; it is indeed a cold and dreary country, but very diſtant from Greenland. The inhabitants there train up large dogs, which they harneſs to a ſledge, upon which the maſter ſits, and ſo performs his journey along the ſnow and ice. All the ſummer the dogs are turned looſe to ſhift for themſelves, and prey upon the remains of fiſh, which they find upon the ſhore or the banks of rivers; for fiſh is the common food of all the inhabitants. In the winter the Kamtſchatkans aſſemble their dogs, and uſe them for the purpoſes I have mentioned. They have no reins to govern their dogs, or ſtop them in their courſe; but the driver ſits upon his ſledge, and keeps

keeps himſelf as ſteady as he is able, holding in his hand a ſhort ſtick, which he throws at the dogs, if they diſpleaſe him, and catches again with great dexterity as he paſſes. This way of travelling is not without danger; for the temper of the dogs is ſuch, that when they deſcend hills and ſlippery places, and paſs through woods where the driver is expoſed to wound himſelf with the branches and ſtumps, they always quicken their pace. The ſame is obſerved in caſe their maſter ſhould fall off, which they inſtantly diſcover by the ſudden lightneſs of the carriage; for then they ſet off at ſuch a rate that it is difficult to overtake them. The only remedy which the Kamtſchatkan finds, is to throw himſelf at his length upon the ground, and lay hold on the empty ſledge, ſuffering himſelf to be thus dragged along the earth, till the dogs through wearineſs abate their ſpeed. Frequently in their journies, theſe travellers are ſurpriſed by unexpected ſtorms of wind and ſnow, which render it impracticable to proceed farther.

How

How ill would an European fare to be thus abandoned, at the diſtance perhaps of an hundred miles, or more, from any habitable place; expoſed without ſhelter in the midſt of extenſive plains, and unable to procure either food or fire? But the hardy native of theſe cold climates, enured from his infancy to ſupport difficulties, and almoſt ſuperior to the elements, ſeeks the ſhelter of the firſt foreſt he can find; then wrapping himſelf round in his warm fur garment, he ſits with his legs under him, and thus bundled up ſuffers himſelf to be covered round with the ſnow, except a ſmall hole which he leaves for the conveniency of breathing. In this manner he lies with his dogs around him, who aſſiſt in keeping him warm, ſometimes ſeveral days, till the ſtorm is paſt, the roads are paſſable, and he is able to purſue his journey again.

TOMMY.

I could not have conceived it poſſible, that men ſhould be able to ſtruggle with ſo many hardſhips. But do not the poor peo-

ple

ple that inhabit theſe cold climates, quit them, whenever they can find an opportunity, and come to ſettle in thoſe that are warmer?

Mr. BARLOW.

Not in the leaſt. When they hear that there are no ſeals to be caught in other countries, they ſay that they muſt be wretched indeed, and much inferior to their own. Beſides, they have in general ſo great a contempt for all the Europeans, that they have no inclination to viſit the countries which they inhabit.

TOMMY.

How can that be? How can a parcel of wretched, ignorant ſavages, deſpiſe men that are ſo much ſuperior to themſelves?

Mr. BARLOW.

This is not what they are quite ſo well convinced of. The Greenlanders, for inſtance, ſee that the Europeans that viſit them, are much inferior to themſelves in the art of managing a boat or catching ſeals; in ſhort, in every thing which they find

find moſt uſeful to ſupport life. For this reaſon they conſider them all with very great contempt, and look upon them as little better than barbarians.

TOMMY.

That is very impertinent indeed, and I ſhould like to convince them of their folly.

Mr. BARLOW.

Why, do not you look upon yourſelf as much ſuperior to your black ſervants, and have I not often heard you expreſs great contempt for them?

TOMMY.

I do not deſpiſe them now ſo much as I uſed to do. Beſides, ſir, I only think myſelf ſomething better becauſe I have been brought up like a gentleman.

Mr. BARLOW.

A gentleman! I have never exactly underſtood what a gentleman is, according to your notions.

TOMMY.

Why, ſir, when a perſon is not brought up to work, and has ſeveral people to wait

upon him, like my father and mother, then he is a gentleman.

Mr. BARLOW.

And then he has a right to deſpiſe others, has he?

TOMMY.

I do not ſay that, ſir, neither. But he is, however, ſuperior to them.

Mr. BARLOW.

Superior in what? In the art of cultivating the ground to raiſe food, and making clothes or houſes?

TOMMY.

No, ſir, not that; for gentlemen never plough the ground or build houſes.

Mr. BARLOW.

Is he then ſuperior in knowledge? Were you, who have been brought up a gentleman, ſuperior to all the reſt of the world when you came here?

TOMMY.

To be ſure, ſir, when I came here, I did not know as much as I do now.

Mr.

Mr. Barlow.

If then you, when you knew nothing and could do nothing, thought yourſelf ſuperior to the reſt of the world, why ſhould you wonder that men, who really excel others in thoſe things which they ſee abſolutely neceſſary, ſhould have the ſame good opinion of themſelves? Were you to be in Greenland, for inſtance, how would you prove your own ſuperiority and importance?

Tommy.

I would tell them that I had always been well brought up at home.

Mr. Barlow.

That they would not believe; they would ſay, that they ſaw you were totally unable to do any thing uſeful; to guide a boat; to ſwim the ſeas; to procure yourſelf the leaſt ſuſtenance; ſo that you would periſh with hunger, if they did not charitably afford you now and then a bit of whale or ſeal. And as to your being a gentleman, they would not underſtand the word; nor would

they comprehend, why one man who is naturally as good as his fellow creature, ſhould ſubmit to the caprice of another and obey him.

Indeed, anſwered Tommy, I begin to think that I am not ſo much better than others, as I uſed to do.

Mr. BARLOW.

The more you encourage that thought, the more likely you are to acquire real ſuperiority and excellence; for great and generous minds are leſs expoſed to that ridiculous vanity than weak and childiſh ones.

A few evenings after this converſation, when the night was remarkably clear, Mr. Barlow called his two pupils into the garden, where there was a long hollow tube ſuſpended upon a frame. Mr. Barlow then placed Tommy upon a chair, and bade him look through it; which he had ſcarcely done, when he cried out, What an extraordinary ſight is this! What is the matter? ſaid

ſaid Mr. Barlow. I ſee, replied Tommy, what I ſhould take for the moon, were it not a great many times bigger; and ſo near to me that I can almoſt touch it. What you ſee, anſwered Mr. Barlow ſmiling, is the moon itſelf. This glaſs has indeed the power of making it appear to your eye, as it would do, could you approach a great deal nearer: but ſtill it is nothing but the moon; and from this ſingle experiment you may judge of the different ſize which the ſun and all the other heavenly bodies would appear to have, if you could advance a great deal nearer to them. Tommy was delighted with this new ſpectacle: the moon, he ſaid, viewed in this manner, was the moſt glorious ſight he had ever ſeen in his life. And I proteſt, added he, it ſeems to be ſhaded in ſuch a manner, that it almoſt reſembles land and water. What you ſay, anſwered Mr. Barlow, is by no means unreaſonable: the moon is a very large body, and may be, for aught we know, inhabited like the earth. Tommy was more and more aſtoniſhed at

the introduction of all theſe new ideas; but what he was particularly inquiſitive about was, to know the reaſon of this extraordinary change in the appearance of objects, only by looking through an hollow tube with a bit of glaſs fixed into it. All this, replied Mr. Barlow, I will, if you deſire it, one day explain to you; but it is rather too long and difficult to undertake it at the preſent moment: when you are a little farther advanced in ſome of the things which you are now ſtudying, you will comprehend me better. However, before we retire to-night, I will ſhow you ſomething more, which will perhaps equally ſurpriſe you. They then returned to the houſe, and Mr. Barlow, who had prepared every thing for his intended exhibition, led Tommy into a room, where he obſerved nothing but a lantern upon the floor, and a white ſheet hung up againſt the wall. Tommy laughed, and ſaid he did not ſee any thing very curious in all that. Well, ſaid Mr. Barlow, perhaps I may ſurpriſe you yet, before

before I have done; let us at leaſt light up the lantern, that you may ſee a little clearer. Mr. Barlow then lighted a lamp, which was within the lantern, and extinguiſhed all the other candles; and Tommy was inſtantly ſtruck with aſtoniſhment, to ſee a gigantic figure of a man leading along a large bear, appear upon the wall and glide ſlowly along the ſheet. As he was admiring this wonderful ſight, a large monkey, dreſſed up in the habit of a man, appeared, and followed the bear; after him came an old woman trundling a barrow of fruit; and then two boys, who however were as big as men, that ſeemed to be fighting as they paſſed. Tommy could hardly find words to expreſs his pleaſure and admiration; and he entreated Mr. Barlow, in the moſt earneſt manner, to explain to him the reaſon of all theſe wonderful ſights. At preſent, ſaid Mr. Barlow, you are not ſufficiently advanced to comprehend the explanation. However, thus much I will inform you, that both the wonderful tube which ſhowed

you the moon ſo much larger than you ever ſaw it before, and this curious exhibition of to-night, and a variety of others, which I will hereafter ſhow you, if you deſire it, depend entirely upon ſuch a little bit of glaſs as this. Mr. Barlow then put into his hand a ſmall, round piece of glaſs, which reſembled the figure of a globe on both ſides: it is by looking through ſuch pieces of glaſs as this, ſaid he, and by arranging them in a particular manner, that we are enabled to perform all theſe wonders. Well, ſaid Tommy, I never could have believed, that ſimply looking through a bit of glaſs could have made ſuch a difference in the appearance of things. And yet, ſaid Mr. Barlow, looking at a thing through water alone, is capable of producing the greateſt change, as I will immediately prove to you. Mr. Barlow then took a ſmall earthen baſin, and putting an half crown at the bottom, deſired Tommy gradually to go back, ſtill looking at the baſin, till he could diſtinguiſh the piece of money no

longer.

longer. Tommy accordingly retired, and preſently cried out, that he had totally loſt ſight of the money; then, ſaid Mr. Barlow, I will enable you to ſee it, merely by putting water into it. So he gradually poured water into the baſin, till, to the new aſtoniſhment of Tommy, he found that he could plainly ſee the half-crown, which was before inviſible. Tommy was vaſtly delighted with all theſe wonderful experiments, and declared, that from this time forward he would never reſt till he had made himſelf acquainted with every thing curious in every branch of knowledge. I remember reading a ſtory, added Mr. Barlow, where a teleſcope, for that is the name of the glaſs which brings diſtant objects ſo much nearer to the eye, was uſed to a very excellent purpoſe indeed. Pray how was that? ſaid Tommy. In ſome part of Africa, ſaid Mr. Barlow, there was a prince who was attacked by one of his moſt powerful neighbours, and almoſt driven out of his dominions. He had done every thing he could

to defend himſelf with the greateſt bravery; but was overpowered by the numbers of his enemy, and defeated in ſeveral battles. At length he was reduced to a very ſmall number of brave men, who ſtill accompanied him, and had taken poſſeſſion of a ſteep and difficult hill, which he determined to defend to the laſt extremity; while the enemy was in poſſeſſion of all the country round. While he lay with his little army in this diſagreeable ſituation, he was viſited by an European, whom he had formerly received and treated with the greateſt kindneſs. To this man the unfortunate prince made his complaints, telling him, that he was expoſed every inſtant to be attacked by his ſtronger foe; and though he had taken his reſolution, he expected nothing but to be cut off with all his army. The European happened to have with him one of theſe curious glaſſes, which had not been long invented in Europe, and was totally unknown in that part of the globe; and he told the prince, his friend, that he would

ſoon inform him of what his enemy was doing; and then he might take his own meaſures with the greater confidence. So he produced his glaſs, and after having adjuſted it, turned it towards the enemy's camp, which he conſidered ſome time with great attention; and then told his friend, that he might at leaſt be eaſy for the preſent; for the enemy's general was at that inſtant thinking only of a great feaſt, which he was giving to the officers of his army. How is it poſſible, replied the prince, that you can pretend to diſcover ſo accurately what is done in yonder camp? My eyes, I think, are at leaſt as good as yours, and yet the diſtance is ſo great, that I can diſcover nothing diſtinctly. The European then deſired his friend to look through the teleſcope; which he had no ſooner done, than he roſe in great trepidation, and was going to mount his horſe; for the ſpectacle was ſo new to him, that he imagined the enemy were cloſe to him, and that nothing remained but to ſtand upon his defence.

The European could not help ſmiling at this miſtake, and after he had with ſome difficulty removed his panic, by explaining the wonderful powers of the glaſs, he prevailed upon him to be quiet. But the unexpected terror which his teleſcope had excited, inſpired him with a ſudden thought, which he determined to improve to the advantage of the beſieged prince. Acquainting him therefore with his intention, he deſired him to draw out all his men in their military array, and to let them deſcend the mountain ſlowly, claſhing their arms and waving their ſwords as they marched. He then mounted an horſe and rode to the enemy's camp, where he no ſooner arrived, than he deſired to be inſtantly introduced to the general. He found him ſitting in his tent, carouſing in the midſt of his officers, and thinking of nothing leſs than an engagement. When he approached, he thus accoſted him: I am come, great warrior, as a friend, to acquaint you with a circumſtance that is abſolutely neceſſary to the

ſafety

ſafety of yourſelf and army. What is that? ſaid the general, with ſome ſurpriſe. At this inſtant, replied the European, while you are indulging yourſelf in feſtivity, the enemy, who has lately been reinforced with a large body of his moſt valiant troops, is advancing to attack you; and even now has almoſt penetrated to your camp. I have here, added he, a wonderful glaſs, the compoſition of which is only known in Europe; and, if you will condeſcend to look through it for a moment, it will convince you that all I ſay is truth. Saying this, he directed his eye to the teleſcope, which the general had no ſooner looked into, than he was ſtruck with conſternation and affright. He ſaw the prince, whom he had long conſidered as lying at his mercy, advancing with his army in excellent order, and, as he imagined, cloſe to his camp. He could even diſcern the menacing air of the ſoldiers, and the brandiſhing of their ſwords as they moved. His officers, who thronged round him to know the cauſe of his ſudden fright, had

had no ſooner peeped into the wonderful glaſs, than they were all affected in the ſame manner. Their heads had been already diſturbed by their intemperance; and therefore, without waiting to conſult, they ruſhed in a panic out of their tents, mounted their ſwifteſt horſes, and fled away, without ſtaying to ſee the conſequences. The reſt of the army, who had ſeen the conſternation of their leaders, and had heard that the enemy was advancing to deſtroy them, were ſtruck with an equal panic, and inſtantly followed the example: ſo that the whole plain was covered with men and horſes, that made all poſſible haſte towards their own country, without thinking of reſiſtance. Thus was an immenſe army diſperſed in an inſtant, and the beſieged prince delivered from his danger, by the addreſs and ſuperior knowledge of a ſingle man.

Thus you ſee, added Mr. Barlow, of how much uſe a ſuperiority of knowledge is frequently capable of making individuals. But a ſtill more famous inſtance is that of Archimedes,

medes, one of the moſt celebrated mathematicians of his time. He, when the city of Syracuſe was beſieged by the Romans, defended it for a long time, by the ſurpriſing machines he invented, in ſuch a manner that they began to deſpair of taking it. Do, pray, ſaid Tommy, tell me that ſtory. No, anſwered Mr. Barlow, it is now time to retire; and you may at any time read all the particulars of this extraordinary ſiege in Plutarch's Life of Marcellus.

And now the time approached, when Mr. Barlow was accuſtomed to invite the greater part of the poor of his pariſh to an annual dinner. He had a large hall, which was almoſt filled with men, women, and children: a cheerful fire blazed in the chimney, and a prodigious table was placed in the middle for the company to dine upon. Mr. Barlow himſelf received his gueſts, and converſed with them about the ſtate of their families and their affairs. Thoſe that were induſtrious, and brought their

their children up to labour, inſtructing them in the knowledge of their duty, and preſerving them from bad impreſſions, were ſure to meet with his encouragement and commendations. Thoſe that had been ill, he aſſiſted with ſuch little neceſſaries, as tended to alleviate their pains, and diffuſe a gleam of cheerfulneſs over their ſufferings. How hard, he would ſay, is the lot of the poor, when they are afflicted with ſickneſs! How intolerable do we find the leaſt bodily diſorder, even though we poſſeſs every convenience which can mitigate its violence! Not all the dainties which can be collected from all the elements, the warmth of downy beds and ſilken couches, the attendance of obſequious dependants, are capable of making us bear with common patience the commoneſt diſeaſe. How pitiable then muſt be the ſtate of a fellow-creature, who is at once tortured by bodily ſuffering, and deſtitute of every circumſtance which can alleviate it! who ſees around him a family that are not only incapable

capable of aſſiſting their parent, but deſtined to want the common neceſſaries of life, the moment he intermits his daily labours! How indiſpenſable then is the obligation, which ſhould continually impel the rich to exert themſelves in aſſiſting their fellow-creatures, and rendering that condition of life which we all avoid, leſs dreadful to thoſe who muſt ſupport it always!

Acting from ſuch principles as theſe, Mr. Barlow was the common friend of all the ſpecies. Whatever his fortune would allow him to perform, he never refuſed to all who ſtood in need of his aſſiſtance. But there is yet a duty, which he thought of more importance than the mere diſtribution of property to the needy—the encouragement of induſtry and virtue among the poor, and giving them juſter notions of morals and religion. If we have a dog, he would ſay, we refuſe neither pains nor expenſe to train him up to hunting; if we have an horſe, we ſend him to an experienced rider to be bitted; but our own

ſpecies

ſpecies ſeems to be the only animal which is entirely exempted from our care. When he rode about the country, he uſed to conſider with admiration, the ſplendid ſtables which the great conſtruct for the reception of their horſes, their ice-houſes, temples, hermitages, grottoes, and all the apparatus of modern vanity. All this, he would ſay, is an unequivocal proof that the gentleman loves himſelf, and grudges no expenſe that can gratify his vanity; but I would now wiſh to ſee what he has done for his fellow-creatures, what are the proofs that he has given of public ſpirit or humanity; the wrongs which he has redreſſed, the miſeries he has alleviated, the abuſes which he has endeavoured to remove.

When he was told of the ſtubbornneſs and ingratitude of the poor, he uſed to ſay, that he believed it without difficulty; for they were men in common with their ſuperiors, and therefore muſt ſhare in ſome of their vices: but if the intereſts of humanity were half as dear to us as the ſmalleſt article that pleaſes

pleaſes our palate or flatters our vanity, we ſhould not ſo eaſily abandon them in diſguſt. Mr. Barlow happened once to be in company with a lady, with whom he was upon a footing of intimacy, that was talking in this manner. Nobody, ſhe ſaid, had greater feeling than herſelf, or was more deſirous of aſſiſting her fellow-creatures. When ſhe firſt came into the country, ſhe had endeavoured to relieve all the miſery ſhe heard of; ſhe had given victuals to one, phyſic to a ſecond, and clothes to a third; but ſhe had met with ſo much ill-behaviour and ingratitude in return, that ſhe had long been obliged to reſign all her charitable intentions, and abandon the poor to their fate. All the company aſſented to a doctrine that was ſo very conformable to their own practice and inclinations, and agreed that nothing could be more injudicious than any attempts to be charitable. Some little time after this converſation cards were produced, and the lady who had been ſo eloquent againſt the poor, ſat down to whiſt,

whiſt, at which ſhe played for ſeveral hours with equal ignorance and ill-fortune. When the party was over ſhe was complaining to Mr. Barlow of her loſſes, and added, that ſhe ſcarcely ever in her life had ſitten down to cards with better ſucceſs. I wonder, madam, replied Mr. Barlow, you do not then give them up entirely. Alas! anſwered the lady, I have often made this reſolution; but I have never had the courage to keep it. Indeed, madam, ſaid Mr. Barlow, it is impoſſible you can be deficient in courage; and therefore you wrong your own character. You do me too much honour, ſaid the lady, by your good opinion; but whoever has given you this information is deceived. I had it only from yourſelf, madam.—From me, ſir? When did I ever give you ſuch a character of myſelf?—Juſt now, madam, when you declared that upon the bad ſucceſs of half a dozen experiments, you had reſolved never more to be charitable, and had kept the reſolution ever ſince. I can hardly conceive that your love of

cards

cards is ſo much greater than that of your duty and religion; and therefore, my dear madam, I muſt repeat it, that you certainly undervalue your own fortitude.

Such were the opinions of Mr. Barlow in reſpect to the poor; and therefore, inſtead of widening the diſtance which fortune has placed between one part of mankind and another, he was continually intent upon bringing the two claſſes nearer together. Poverty has in itſelf ſo many hardſhips and diſagreeable circumſtances, that we need not increaſe their number by unneceſſary pride and inſolence. The diſtinctions of rank may indeed be neceſſary to the government of a populous country; but it is for the good of the whole, not of individuals, that they can have any juſt claim to be admitted; and therefore a good man will inſiſt upon them no more than is abſolutely neceſſary for that purpoſe. On the contrary, whatever may be his rank or importance, he will plainly prove, by the courteſy and benevolence of his manners,

that

that he laments the neceſſity of his own elevation, and, inſtead of wiſhing to mount ſtill higher, would willingly deſcend nearer to an equality with his fellow-creatures.

Tommy was very much diverted with the ceremonies of this feſtal day. He had loſt a great part of his Weſt-Indian pride during his reſidence with Mr. Barlow, and had contracted many acquaintances among the families of the poor. After the example of Mr. Barlow, he condeſcended to go about from one to the other, and make inquiries about their families; nor was he a little gratified with the extreme reſpect with which he found himſelf treated, both upon the account of Mr. Barlow and the reputation of his own liberality. Thus did the morning paſs away in the moſt agreeable and auſpicious manner; but after dinner an unexpected incident arrived, which clouded all the merriment of the unfortunate Tommy Merton.

Mr. Barlow happened to have a large Newfoundland dog, equally famous for his

good-nature and his love of the water. With this dog Tommy had long been forming an acquaintance; and he uſed to divert himſelf with throwing ſticks into the water, which Cæſar would inſtantly bring out in his mouth, however great might be the diſtance. Tommy had been fired with the deſcription of the Kamtſchatkan dogs, and their method of drawing ſledges, and meditated an enterpriſe of this nature upon Cæſar. This very day, finding himſelf unuſually at leiſure, he choſe for the execution of his project. He therefore furniſhed himſelf with ſome rope and a kitchen chair, which he deſtined for his vehicle inſtead of a ſledge. He then inveigled Cæſar into a large yard behind the houſe, and extending the chair flat upon the ground, faſtened him to it with great care and ingenuity. Cæſar, who did not underſtand the new purpoſe to which he was going to be applied, ſuffered himſelf to be harneſſed without oppoſition; and Tommy mounted triumphantly his ſeat, with a whip in his hand, and began

gan his operations. A crowd of little boys, the ſons of the labourers within, now gathered round the young gentleman, and by their admiration very much increaſed his ardour to diſtinguiſh himſelf. Tommy began to uſe the common expreſſions which he had heard coachmen practiſe to their horſes, and ſmacked his whip with all the confidence of an experienced charioteer. Cæſar meanwhile, who did not comprehend this language, began to be a little impatient, and expreſſed his uneaſineſs by making ſeveral bounds, and rearing up like a reſtive horſe. This added very much to the diverſion of the ſpectators, and Tommy, who conſidered his honour as materially concerned in achieving the adventure, began to grow a little more warm; and proceeding from one experiment to another, at length applied a pretty ſevere laſh to the hinder part of his ſteed. This Cæſar reſented ſo much, that he inſtantly ſet off at three quarters ſpeed, and dragged the chair, with the driver upon it, at a prodigious rate.

Tommy

Tommy now looked round with an infinite air of triumph, and kept his ſeat with ſurpriſing addreſs and firmneſs. Unfortunately, there happened to be at no great diſtance a large horſe-pond, which went ſhelving down to the depth of three or four feet. Hither, by a kind of natural inſtinct, the affrighted Cæſar ran, when he found he could not diſengage himſelf from his tormentor; while Tommy, who now began to repent of his ſucceſs, endeavoured to pacify and reſtrain him. But all his expoſtulations were vain; for Cæſar precipitately ruſhed into the pond, and in an inſtant plunged into the middle, with his charioteer behind him. The crowd of ſpectators had now a freſh ſubject of diverſion; and all their reſpect for maſter Tommy could not hinder them from burſting into ſhouts of deriſion. The unfortunate hero was equally diſcompoſed at the unmannerly exultation of his attendants, and at his own ticklish ſituation. But he did not long wait for the cataſtrophe of his adventure; for after a

little floundering about in the pond, Cæſar by a vigorous exertion overturned the chair, and Tommy came roughly into the water. To add to his misfortune, the pond was at that time neither ice nor water: for a ſudden thaw had commenced the day before, accompanied with a copious fall of ſnow. Tommy, therefore, as ſoon as he had recovered his footing, floundered on thro' mud and water, and pieces of floating ice, like ſome amphibious animal, to the ſhore. Sometimes his feet ſlipped, and down he tumbled; then he ſtruggled up again, ſhaking the water from his hair and clothes; now his feet ſtuck faſt in the mud, and now by a deſperate effort he diſengaged them with the loſs of both his ſhoes: thus labouring on with infinite pain and difficulty, he reached the land. The whole troop of ſpectators were now incapable of ſtifling their laughter, which broke forth in ſuch redoubled peals, that the unfortunate hero was irritated to an extreme of rage; ſo that forgetting his own ſufferings and neceſſities, as ſoon

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as he had ſtruggled to the ſhore, he fell upon them in a fury, and dealt his blows ſo liberally on every ſide, that he put the whole company to flight. Tommy was now in the ſituation of a warrior that purſues a routed army. Diſmay and terror ſcattered all his little aſſociates an hundred different ways; while paſſion and revenge animated him to the purſuit, and made him forgetful of the wetneſs of his clothes and the uncomfortableneſs of his ſituation. Whatever unfortunate boy came within his reach, was ſure to be unmercifully cuffed and pommelled; for in the fury with which he felt himſelf inſpired, he did not wait to conſider the exact rules of juſtice. While Tommy was thus revenging the affronts he imagined he had received, and chaſing the vanquiſhed about the court, the unuſual noiſe and uproar which enſued, reached the ears of Mr. Barlow, and brought him to the door. He could hardly help laughing at the rueful figure of his friend, with the water dropping from every part of

his body in copious ſtreams, and at the rage which ſeemed to animate him in ſpite of his diſaſter. It was with ſome difficulty that Tommy could compoſe himſelf enough to give Mr. Barlow an account of his miſfortunes; which when he had heard, he immediately led him into the houſe, and adviſed him to undreſs and go to bed. He then brought him ſome warm, diluting liquors, by which means he avoided all the bad effects which might otherwiſe have ariſen from ſo complete a drenching.

The next day, Mr. Barlow laughed at Tommy in his uſual good-natured manner, and aſked him if he intended to ride out in the Kamtſchatkan manner; adding, however, that he ſhould be afraid to attend him, as he had the habit of beating his companions. Tommy was a little confounded at this inſinuation, but replied, that he ſhould not have been ſo provoked, if they had not laughed at his misfortunes; and he thought it very hard to be wetted and ridiculed both. But, replied Mr. Barlow, did

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their noiſe or laughter do you any great damage, that you endeavoured to return it ſo roughly? Tommy anſwered, that he muſt own it did not do him any hurt, or give him any pain. Why then, ſaid Mr. Barlow, I do not ſee the juſtice of your returning it in that manner. But, ſaid Tommy, it is ſo provoking to be laughed at! There are two ways of remedying that, replied Mr. Barlow; either by not doing ſuch things as will expoſe you to ridicule, or by learning to bear it with a little more patience. But, ſaid Tommy, I do not think that any body can bear it with patience. All the world, ſaid Mr. Barlow, are not quite ſo paſſionate as you are. It is not long ago, that you were ſpeaking of the poor Greenlanders with great contempt, and fancying them much inferior to yourſelf; yet thoſe poor barbarians, as you called them, that live upon fiſh and are not brought up like gentlemen's ſons, are capable of giving you a leſſon, that would be of the greateſt ſervice if you would obſerve it.

What is that, ſir? inquired Tommy. They are brought up to ſo much moderation and ſelf-command, ſaid Mr. Barlow, that they never give way to thoſe ſudden impulſes of paſſion that are common among the Europeans; and when they obſerve their violent geſtures, their angry words, their countenances inflamed with wrath, they feel for them the greateſt contempt, and ſay, they muſt have been very badly educated. As to themſelves, if any perſon thinks himſelf ill-uſed by another, without putting himſelf into any paſſion upon the occaſion, he defies his foe to meet him at a particular time before all their mutual acquaintance.

TOMMY.

But then I ſuppoſe they fight, and that is being as paſſionate as I was.

Mr. BARLOW.

I am ſorry that you, who pretend to have been ſo well brought up, ſhould have recourſe to the example of the Greenlanders in order to juſtify your own conduct; but in this caſe you are miſtaken, for the barbarians

barians are a great deal wiſer than young gentlemen. The perſon who thinks himſelf injured, does indeed challenge his antagoniſt; but it is to a very different ſort of combat from what you imagine. Both parties appear at the appointed time, and each is ſurrounded with a company of his particular friends. The place where they aſſemble is generally the middle of one of their large huts, that all the perſons of their ſociety may be impartial ſpectators of their conteſt. When they are thus convened, the champion, who by agreement is to begin, ſteps forward into the middle of the circle, and entertains them with a ſong, or ſpeech which he has before meditated. In this performance, he generally contrives to throw all the ridicule he is able upon his antagoniſt; and his ſatire is applauded by his own party, and excites univerſal merriment among the audience. When he has ſung or declaimed himſelf out of breath, it is the turn of his rival to begin; who goes on in the ſame manner, anſwering all the

ſatire that has been thrown upon him, and endeavouring to win the laughers over to his own ſide. In this manner do the combatants go on, alternately reciting their compoſitions againſt each other, till the memory or invention of one of them fails, and he is obliged to yield the victory to his rival. After this public ſpecimen of their ingenuity, the two champions generally forget all their animoſities, and are cordially reconciled. This, added Mr. Barlow, appears to me to be a much better method of anſwering ridicule than by giving way to paſſion and reſentment, and beating thoſe that diſpleaſe us: and one of theſe honeſt Greenlanders would be as much aſhamed of ſuch a ſudden tranſport of anger, as a Kamtſchatkan traveller would be, of managing his dogs as ill as you did yeſterday.

And now the time arrived, when Tommy was by appointment to go home and ſpend ſome time with his parents. Mr. Barlow had been long afraid of this viſit,

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as he knew he would meet a great deal of company there, who would give him impreſſions of a very different nature from what he had with ſo much aſſiduity been labouring to excite. However, the viſit was unavoidable, and Mr. Merton ſent ſo preſſing an invitation for Harry to accompany his friend, after having obtained the conſent of his father, that Mr. Barlow, with much regret, took leave of both his pupils. Harry, from the experience he had formerly acquired of polite life, had no great inclination for the expedition; however, his temper was too eaſy and obliging to raiſe any objections, and the real affection he now entertained for maſter Merton, rendered him leſs averſe than he would otherwiſe have been. When they arrived at Mr. Merton's, they were introduced into a crowded drawing-room, full of the moſt elegant company which that part of the country afforded; among whom were ſeveral young gentlemen and ladies of different ages, who had been purpoſely invited to

ſpend their holidays with maſter Merton. As ſoon as maſter Merton entered, every tongue was let looſe in his praiſe; he was grown, he was improved, he was ſuch a charming boy; his eyes, his hair, his teeth, his every feature was the admiration of all the ladies. Thrice did he make the circle, in order to receive the congratulations of the company, and to be introduced to the young ladies. As to Harry, he had the good fortune to be taken notice of by nobody except Mr. Merton, who received him with great cordiality. A lady however, that ſat by Mrs. Merton, aſked her in a whiſper, which was loud enough to be heard all over the room, whether that was the little plough-boy which ſhe had heard Mr. Barlow was attempting to breed up like a gentleman. Mrs. Merton anſwered it was. I proteſt, ſaid the lady, I ſhould have thought ſo by his plebeian look and vulgar air. But I wonder, my dear madam, that you will ſuffer your ſon, that, without flattery, is one of the moſt accompliſhed children I ever ſaw in my life, with quite

the air of faſhion, to keep ſuch company. Are you not afraid that maſter Merton ſhould inſenſibly contract bad habits and a grovelling way of thinking? For my own part, as I think a good education is a thing of the utmoſt conſequence in life, I have ſpared no pains to give my dear Matilda every poſſible advantage. Indeed, replied Mrs. Merton, one may ſee the excellence of her education in every thing that miſs Matilda does. She plays moſt divinely upon the harpſichord, talks French even better than ſhe does Engliſh, and draws in the ſtyle of a maſter. Indeed, I think that laſt figure of the naked gladiator the fineſt thing I ever ſaw in my life.

While this converſation was going on in one part of the room, a young lady obſerving that nobody ſeemed to take the leaſt notice of Harry, advanced towards him with the greateſt affability, and began to enter into converſation with him. This young lady's name was Simmons: her father and mother had been two of the moſt

reſpectable people in the country, according to the old ſtyle of Engliſh gentry; but having died while ſhe was young, the care of her had devolved upon an uncle, who was a man of ſenſe and benevolence, but a very great humouriſt. This gentleman had ſuch peculiar ideas of female character, that he waged war with moſt of the polite and modern accompliſhments. As one of the firſt bleſſings of life, according to his notions, was health, he endeavoured to prevent that ſickly delicacy, which is conſidered as ſo great an ornament in faſhionable life, by a more robuſt and hardy education. His niece was accuſtomed, from her earlieſt years, to plunge into the cold bath at every ſeaſon of the year, to riſe by candle-light in winter, to ride a dozen miles upon a trotting horſe, or to walk as many, even with the hazard of being ſplaſhed or ſoiling her clothes. By this mode of education miſs Sukey, for ſo ſhe had the misfortune to be named, acquired an excellent character, accompanied however with ſome diſpoſitions,

which diſqualified her almoſt as much as Harry for faſhionable life. She was acquainted with all the beſt authors in our own language, nor was ſhe ignorant of thoſe in French; although ſhe could not ſpeak a word of the language. Her uncle, who was a man of ſenſe and knowledge, had beſides inſtructed her in ſeveral parts of knowledge, which rarely fall to the lot of ladies; ſuch as the eſtabliſhed laws of nature and a ſmall degree of geometry. She was, beſides, brought up to every ſpecies of houſehold employment, which is now exploded by ladies in every rank and ſtation, as mean and vulgar; and taught to believe, that domeſtic economy is a point of the utmoſt conſequence to every woman that intends to be a wife or mother. As to muſic, though miſs Simmons had a very agreeable voice, and could ſing ſeveral ſimple ſongs in a very pleaſing manner, ſhe was entirely ignorant of it; her uncle uſed to ſay, that human life is not long enough to throw away ſo much time upon the ſci-

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ence of making a noiſe. Nor would he permit her to learn French, although he underſtood it himſelf; women, he thought, are not birds of paſſage, that are to be eternally changing their place of abode. I have never ſeen any good, would he ſay, from the importation of foreign manners; every virtue may be learned and practiſed at home; and it is only becauſe we do not chooſe to have either virtue or religion among us, that ſo many adventurers are yearly ſent out to ſmuggle foreign graces. As to various languages, I do not ſee the neceſſity of them for a woman. My niece is to marry an Engliſhman, and to live in England. To what purpoſe then ſhould I labour to take off the difficulty of converſing with foreigners, and to promote her intercourſe with barbers, valets, dancing-maſters, and adventurers of every deſcription, that are continually doing us the honour to come amongſt us? As to the French nation, I know and eſteem it on many accounts; but I am very doubtful whether

whether the Engliſh will ever gain much by adopting either their manners or their government; and when reſpectable foreigners chooſe to viſit us, I ſee no reaſon why they ſhould not take the trouble of learning the language of the country.

Such had been the education of miſs Simmons, who was the only one of all the genteel company at Mr. Merton's that thought Harry deſerving the leaſt attention. This young lady, who poſſeſſed an uncommon degree of natural benevolence of character, came up to him, and addreſſed him in ſuch a manner as ſet him perfectly at his eaſe. Harry was deſtitute of the artificial graces of ſociety; but he poſſeſſed that natural politeneſs and good-nature, without which all artificial graces are the moſt diſguſting things in the world. Harry had an underſtanding naturally ſtrong; and Mr. Barlow, while he had with the greateſt care preſerved him from all falſe impreſſions, had taken great pleaſure in cultivating the faculties of his mind. Harry indeed never

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ſaid any of thoſe brilliant things which render a boy the darling of the ladies; he had not that vivacity, or rather impertinence, which frequently paſſes for wit with ſuperficial people: but he paid the greateſt attention to what was ſaid to him, and made the moſt judicious obſervations upon ſubjects he underſtood. For this reaſon, miſs Simmons, although much older and more improved, received great ſatisfaction from converſing with him, and thought little Harry infinitely more agreeable and judicious than any of the ſmart young gentlemen ſhe had hitherto ſeen at Mr. Merton's.

But now the company was ſummoned to the important buſineſs of dinner. Harry could not help ſighing, when he reflected upon what he had to undergo; however, he determined to bear it with all imaginable fortitude for the ſake of his friend Tommy. The dinner indeed was, if poſſible, more dreadful than any thing he had before undergone; ſo many fine gentlemen and fine ladies; ſo many powdered ſervants

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to ſtand behind their chairs; ſuch an apparatus of diſhes that Harry had never taſted before, and that almoſt made him ſick when he did taſte; ſo many removes; ſuch pomp and ſolemnity about what ſeemed the eaſieſt thing in the world; that Harry could not help envying the condition of his father's labourers, who, when they are hungry, can ſit at their eaſe under an hedge, and make a dinner, without plates, table-cloths, or compliments. In the mean time, his friend Tommy was received amid the circle of the ladies, and attended to as a prodigy of wit and ingenuity. Harry could not help being ſurpriſed at this; his affection for his friend was totally unmixed with the meanneſs of jealouſy, and he received the ſincereſt pleaſure from every improvement which Tommy had made; however, he had never diſcovered in him any of thoſe ſurpriſing talents, and when he could catch any thing that Tommy ſaid, it appeared to him rather inferior to his uſual method of converſation: however, as ſo many fine ladies

ladies were of a different opinion, he took it for granted that he muſt be miſtaken. But if Harry's opinion of his friend's abilities was not much improved by this exhibition, it was not ſo with Tommy. The repeated aſſurances which he received that he was indeed a little prodigy, began to convince him that he really was ſo. When he conſidered the company he came from, he found that infinite injuſtice had been done to his merit; for at Mr. Barlow's he was frequently contradicted, and obliged to give a reaſon for what he ſaid; but here, in order to be admired, he had nothing to do but talk; whether he had any meaning or not, his auditors always found either wit, or ſenſe, or a moſt entertaining ſprightlineſs in all he ſaid. Nor was Mrs. Merton herſelf deficient in beſtowing marks of admiration upon her ſon. To ſee him before improve in health, in underſtanding, in virtue, had given her a pleaſurable ſenſation, for ſhe was by no means deſtitute of good diſpoſitions; but to ſee him ſhine with ſuch tranſcendent

ſcendent brightneſs, before ſuch excellent judges and in ſo polite a company, inſpired her with raptures ſhe had never felt before. Indeed, in conſequence of this ſucceſs, the young gentleman's volubility improved ſo much, that, before the dinner was over, he ſeemed diſpoſed to engroſs the whole converſation to himſelf; and Mr. Merton, who did not quite reliſh the ſallies of his ſon ſo much as his wife, was once or twice obliged to interpoſe and check him in his career. This Mrs. Merton thought very hard, and all the ladies, after they had retired into the drawing-room, agreed, that his father would certainly ſpoil his temper by ſuch improper contradiction. As to little Harry, he had not the good fortune to pleaſe the greater number of the ladies; they obſerved that he was awkward and ungenteel, and had an heavy clowniſh look; he was alſo ſilent and reſerved, and had not ſaid a ſingle agreeable thing: if Mr. Barlow choſe to keep a ſchool for carters and threſhers, nobody would hinder him; but it was not proper to introduce

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ſuch vulgar people to the ſons of perſons of faſhion. It was therefore agreed, that Mr. Barlow ought either to ſend little Harry home to his friends, or to be no more honoured with the company of maſter Merton. Indeed, one of the ladies hinted that Mr. Barlow himſelf was but an odd kind of man, that never went to aſſemblies, and played upon no kind of inſtrument. Why, anſwered Mrs. Merton, to tell the truth, I was not over-fond of the ſcheme: Mr. Barlow, to be ſure, though a very good, is a very odd kind of man; however, as he is ſo diſintereſted, and would never receive the leaſt preſent from us, I doubt whether we could with propriety inſiſt upon his turning little Sandford out of the houſe. If that is the caſe, madam, anſwered Mrs. Compton, for that was the name of the lady, I think it would be infinitely better to remove maſter Merton, and place him in ſome polite ſeminary; where he might acquire a knowledge of the world, and make genteel connexions. This will be always

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the greateſt advantage to a young gentleman, and will prove of the moſt eſſential ſervice to him in life. For though a perſon has all the merit in the world, without ſuch acquaintance it never will puſh him forward, or enable him to make a figure. This is the plan which I have always purſued with Auguſtus and Matilda; I think I may ſay, not entirely without ſucceſs; for they have both the good fortune to have formed the moſt brilliant acquaintances. As to Auguſtus, he is ſo intimate with young lord Squander, who you know is poſſeſſed of the greateſt parliamentary intereſt, that I think his fortune is as good as made. Miſs Simmons, who was preſent at this refined and wiſe converſation, could not help looking with ſo much ſignificance at this mention of lord Squander, that Mrs. Compton coloured a little, and aſked with ſome warmth, whether ſhe knew any thing of that young nobleman. Why, madam, anſwered the young lady, what I know is very little; but if you deſire me to inform you,

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it is my duty to ſpeak the truth. Oh! to be ſure, miſs, replied Mrs. Compton, a little angrily; we all know that your judgment and knowledge of the world are ſuperior to what any body elſe can boaſt; and therefore, I ſhall be infinitely obliged to you for any information you may be pleaſed to give. Indeed, madam, anſwered the young lady, I have very little of either to boaſt, nor am I perſonally acquainted with the nobleman you are talking of; but I have a couſin, a very good boy, that is at the ſame public ſchool with his lordſhip, who has given me ſuch a character of him as does not much prepoſſeſs me in his favour.—And what may this wiſe couſin of yours have ſaid of his lordſhip?—Only, madam, that he is one of the worſt boys in the whole ſchool: that he has neither genius, nor application for any thing that becomes his rank and ſituation: that he has no taſte for any thing but gaming, horſe-racing, and the moſt contemptible amuſements: that though his allowance is ſo large, he is eternally running

ning in debt with every body that will truſt him; and that he has broken his word ſo often, that nobody has the leaſt confidence in what he ſays. Added to this, I have heard that he is ſo haughty, tyrannical, and overbearing, that nobody can long preſerve his friendſhip, without the meaneſt flattery and ſubſervience to all his vicious inclinations. And to finiſh all, that he is of ſo ungrateful a temper, that he was never known to do an act of kindneſs to any one, or to care about any thing but himſelf.—Here miſs Matilda could not help interpoſing with warmth: ſhe ſaid, that his lordſhip had nothing in his character or manners that did not perfectly become a nobleman of the moſt elevated ſoul. Little, grovelling minds, indeed, which are always envious of their ſuperiors, might give a diſagreeable turn to the generous openneſs of this young nobleman's temper. That as to gaming and running in debt, they were ſo eſſential to a man of faſhion, that nobody who was not born in the city, and oppreſſed by

by city prejudices, would think of making the leaſt objection to them. She then made a panegyric upon his lordſhip's perſon, his elegant taſte in dreſs, his new phaeton, his entertaining converſation, his extraordinary performance upon the violin; and concluded that, with ſuch abilities and accompliſhments, ſhe did not doubt of one day ſeeing him at the head of the nation. Miſs Simmons had no deſire of puſhing the converſation any farther, and the reſt of the company coming in to tea, the diſquiſition about lord Squander finiſhed. After tea, ſeveral of the young ladies were deſired to amuſe the company with muſic and ſinging: among the reſt, miſs Simmons ſang a little Scotch ſong, called Lochaber, in ſo artleſs, but ſweet and pathetic a manner, that little Harry liſtened almoſt with tears in his eyes, though ſeveral of the other young ladies, by their ſignificant looks and geſtures, treated it with ineffable contempt. After this miſs Matilda, who was allowed to be a perfect miſtreſs of muſic, played and ſang ſeveral

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celebrated Italian airs. But as they were in a language totally unintelligible to him, Harry received very little pleaſure, though all the reſt of the company were in raptures. She then proceeded to play ſeveral pieces of muſic, which were allowed by all connoiſſeurs to require infinite ſkill to execute. The audience ſeemed all delighted, and either felt, or pretended to feel, inexpreſſible pleaſure; even Tommy himſelf, though he did not know one note from another, had caught ſo much of the general enthuſiaſm, that he applauded as loud as the reſt of the company: but Harry, whoſe temper was not quite ſo pliable, could not conceal the intolerable wearineſs that overpowered his ſenſes during this long exhibition. He gaped, he yawned, he ſtretched, he even pinched himſelf, in order to keep his attention alive, but all in vain; the more miſs Matilda exerciſed her ſkill in playing pieces of the moſt difficult execution, the more did Harry's propenſity to drowſineſs increaſe. At length, the lateneſs of the hour,

which much exceeded Harry's time of going to bed, conſpiring with the opiate charms of muſic, he could reſiſt no longer, but inſenſibly fell back upon his chair, faſt aſleep. This unfortunate accident was ſoon remarked by the reſt of the company, and confirmed them very much in the opinion they had conceived of Harry's vulgarity; while he, in the mean time, enjoyed the moſt placid ſlumber, which was not diſſipated till miſs Matilda had deſiſted from playing.

Thus was the firſt day paſt at Mr. Merton's, very little to the ſatisfaction of Harry; the next, and the next after, was only a repetition of the ſame ſcene. The little gentry, whoſe taſtes and manners were totally different from his, had now imbibed a perfect contempt for Harry, and it was with great difficulty that they would condeſcend to treat him even with common civility. In this laudable behaviour they were very much confirmed by maſter Compton and maſter Maſh. Maſter Compton was reckoned

ed a very genteel boy, though all his gentility conſiſted in a pair of buckles ſo big that they almoſt crippled him, in a ſlender, emaciated figure, and a look of conſummate impudence. He had almoſt finiſhed his education at a public ſchool, where he had learned every vice and folly which is commonly taught at ſuch places, without the leaſt improvement either of his character or his underſtanding. Maſter Maſh was the ſon of a neighbouring gentleman who had conſiderably impaired his fortune by an inordinate love of horſe-racing. Having been from his infancy accuſtomed to no other converſation than about winning and loſing money, he had acquired the idea that to bet ſucceſsfully was the ſummit of all human ambition. He had been almoſt brought up in the ſtable, and therefore had imbibed the greateſt intereſt about horſes; not from any real affection for that noble animal, but merely becauſe he conſidered them as engines for the winning of money. He too was now improving his talents by a

public education, and longed impatiently for the time when he ſhould be ſet free from all reſtraint, and allowed to diſplay the ſuperiority of his genius at Aſcot and Newmarket. Theſe two young gentlemen had conceived the moſt violent diſlike to Harry, and loſt no occaſion of ſaying or doing every thing they had in their power to mortify him. To Tommy they were in the contrary extreme, and omitted no opportunity of rendering themſelves agreeable. Nor was it long before their forward, vivacious manners, accompanied with a knowledge of many of thoſe gay ſcenes which acted forcibly upon Tommy's imagination, began to render their converſation highly agreeable. They talked to him about public diverſions, about celebrated actreſſes, about parties of pleaſure and parties of miſchief. Tommy began to feel himſelf introduced to a new train of ideas and a wider range of conduct; he began to long for the time when he ſhould ſhare in the glories of robbing orchards, or inſulting

ing paſſengers, with impunity; but when he heard that little boys, ſcarcely bigger than himſelf, had often joined in the glorious project of forming open rebellions againſt their maſters, or of diſturbing a whole audience at a playhouſe, he panted for the time when he might have a chance of ſharing in the fame of ſuch achievements. By degrees he loſt all regard for Mr. Barlow, and all affection for his friend Harry: at firſt, indeed, he was ſhocked at hearing Mr. Barlow mentioned with diſreſpect; but, becoming by degrees more callous to every good impreſſion, he at laſt took infinite pleaſure in ſeeing maſter Maſh, who, though deſtitute of either wit or genius, had a great taſte for mimicry, take off the parſon in the middle of his ſermon. Harry perceived and lamented this change in the manners of his friend; he ſometimes took the liberty of remonſtrating with him upon the ſubject, but was only anſwered with a contemptuous ſneer; and maſter Maſh, who

happened once to be preſent, told him that he was a monſtrous bore.

It happened that while Harry was at Mr. Merton's, there was a troop of ſtrolling players at a neighbouring town. In order to divert the young gentry, Mr. Merton contrived that they ſhould make a party to ſee a play. They went accordingly, and Harry with the reſt. Tommy, who now no longer condeſcended to take any notice of his friend, was ſeated between his two inſeparable companions. Theſe young gentlemen firſt began to give ſpecimens of their politeneſs by throwing nuts and orange-peel upon the ſtage; and Tommy, who was reſolved to profit by ſuch excellent example, threw nuts and orange-peel with infinite ſatisfaction. As ſoon as the curtain drew up, and the actors appeared, all the reſt of the audience obſerved a decent ſilence; but Maſh and Compton, who were now determined to prove the ſuperiority of their manners, began to talk ſo loud, and make ſo much noiſe, that it was impoſſible for any

any one near them to hear a word of the play. This alſo ſeemed amazingly fine to Tommy; and he too talked and laughed as loud as the reſt. The ſubject of their converſation was the audience and the performers; neither of which theſe polite young gentlemen found bearable. The company was chiefly compoſed of the tradeſmen of the town, and the inhabitants of the neighbouring country: this was a ſufficient reaſon for theſe refined young gentlemen to ſpeak of them with the moſt inſufferable contempt. Every circumſtance of their dreſs and appearance was criticized with ſuch a minuteneſs of attention, that Harry, who ſat near, and very much againſt his inclination was witneſs to all that paſſed, began to imagine that his companions, inſtead of being brought up like the ſons of gentlemen, had only ſtudied under barbers and taylors; ſuch amazing knowledge did they diſplay in the hiſtory of buckles, buttons, and dreſſing of hair. As to the poor performers, they found them totally undeſerving mercy; they were

ſo ſhockingly awkward, ſo ill dreſt, ſo low-lived, and ſuch deteſtable creatures, that it was impoſſible to bear them with any patience. Maſter Maſh, who prided himſelf upon being a young gentlemen of great ſpirit, was of opinion that they ſhould kick up a riot and demoliſh all the ſcenery. Tommy, indeed, did not very well underſtand what the expreſſion meaned, but he was ſo intimately perſuaded of the merit and genius of his companions, that he agreed that it would be the propereſt thing in the world; and the propoſal was accordingly made to the reſt of the young gentlemen. But Harry, who had been ſilent all the time, could not help remonſtrating at what appeared to him the greateſt cruelty and injuſtice. Theſe poor people, ſaid he, are doing all they can to entertain us; is it not very unkind to treat them in return with ſcorn and contempt? If they could act better, even as well as thoſe fine people you talk of in London, would they not willingly do it; and therefore why ſhould we be angry at them for

for what they cannot help? And as to cutting the ſcenes to pieces, or doing the houſe any damage, have we any more right to attempt it, than they would have to come into your father's dining-room and break the diſhes to pieces, becauſe they did not like the dinner?—While we are here let us behave with good manners; and if we do not like their acting, it is our own faults if ever we come to ſee them again. This method of reaſoning was not much reliſhed by thoſe to whom it was addreſſed, and it is uncertain how far they might have proceeded, had not a decent, plain looking man, who had been long diſturbed with the noiſe of theſe young gentry, at length taken the liberty of expoſtulating with them upon the ſubject. This freedom, or impertinence, as it was termed by maſter Maſh, was anſwered by him with ſo much rudeneſs, that the man, who was a neighbouring farmer, was obliged to reply in an higher ſtrain. Thus did the altercation increaſe every minute, till maſter Maſh, who

thought it an unpardonable affront that any one in an inferior ſtation ſhould preſume to think or feel for himſelf, ſo far loſt all command of his temper as to call the man a blackguard, and ſtrike him upon the face. But the farmer, who poſſeſſed great ſtrength and equal reſolution, very deliberately laid hold of the young gentleman who had offered him the inſult, and without the ſmalleſt exertion, laid him ſprawling upon the ground, at his full length under the benches, and ſetting his feet upon his body, told him that ſince he did not know how to ſit quiet at a play, he would have the honour of teaching him to lie; and that if he offered to ſtir, he would trample him to pieces, a threat which it was very evident he could find no difficulty in executing. This unexpected incident ſtruck an univerſal damp over the ſpirits of the little gentry; and even maſter Maſh himſelf ſo far forgot his dignity, as to ſupplicate in a very ſubmiſſive manner for a releaſe: in this he was joined by all his companions, and Harry among

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the reſt. Well, ſaid the farmer, I ſhould never have thought that a parcel of young gentlemen, as you call yourſelves, would come into public to behave with ſo much rudeneſs; I am ſure that there is ne'er a plough-boy at my houſe, but what would have ſhown more ſenſe and manners: but ſince you are ſorry for what has happened, I am very willing to make an end of the affair; more eſpecially for the ſake of this little maſter here, who has behaved with ſo much propriety, that I am ſure he is a better gentleman than any of you, though he is not dreſſed ſo much like a monkey or a barber. With theſe words he ſuffered the creſt-fallen Maſh to riſe, who crept from his place of confinement, with looks infinitely more expreſſive of mildneſs than he had brought with him: nor was the leſſon loſt upon the reſt, for they behaved with the greateſt decency during all the reſt of the exhibition. However, maſter Maſh's courage began to riſe as he went home, and found himſelf farther from his formidable

farmer; for he aſſured his companions, that if it had not been ſo vulgar a fellow, he would certainly call him out and piſtol him.

The next day at dinner, Mr. Merton and the ladies, who had not accompanied the young gentlemen to the play, nor had yet heard of the misfortune which had enſued, were very inquiſitive about the preceding night's entertainment. The young people agreed that the performers were deteſtable, but that the play was a charming piece, full of wit and ſentiment, and extremely improving: this play was called The Marriage of Figaro, and maſter Compton had informed them, that it was amazingly admired by all the people of faſhion in London. But Mr. Merton, who had obſerved that Harry was totally ſilent, at length inſiſted upon knowing his opinion upon the ſubject. Why, ſir, anſwered Harry, I am very little judge of theſe matters, for I never ſaw a play before in my life, and therefore I cannot tell whether it was acted well or ill; but as to the play itſelf, it ſeemed to me to be

be full of nothing but cheating and diſſimulation, and the people that come in and out, do nothing but impoſe upon each other, and lie, and trick, and deceive. Were you or any gentleman to have ſuch a parcel of ſervants, you would think them fit for nothing in the world; and therefore I could not help wondering, while the play was acting, that people would throw away ſo much of their time upon ſights that can do them no good; and ſend their children and their relations to learn fraud and inſincerity. Mr. Merton ſmiled at the honeſt bluntneſs of Harry; but ſeveral of the ladies, who had juſt been expreſſing an extravagant admiration of this piece, ſeemed to be not a little mortified; however, as they could not contradict the charges which Harry had brought againſt it, they thought it more prudent to be ſilent.

In the evening, it was propoſed that all the little gentry ſhould divert themſelves with cards; and they accordingly ſat down to a game which is called commerce. But

Harry,

Harry, who was totally ignorant of this accompliſhment, deſired to be excuſed; however, his friend miſs Simmons offered to teach him the game, which ſhe aſſured him was ſo eaſy, that in three minutes he would be able to play as well as the reſt. Harry, however, ſtill continued to refuſe, and at length confeſſed to miſs Simmons, that he had expended all his money the day before, and therefore was unable to furniſh the ſtake which the reſt depoſited. Don't let that diſturb you, ſaid ſhe, I will put down for you with a great deal of pleaſure. Madam, anſwered Harry, I am very much obliged to you, I am ſure; but Mr. Barlow has always forbidden me either to receive or borrow money of any body, for fear, in the one caſe, I ſhould become mercenary, or in the other, diſhoneſt; and therefore, though there is nobody here, whom I eſteem more than yourſelf, I am obliged to refuſe your offer. Well, replied miſs Simmons, that need not diſturb you, for you ſhall play upon my account; and that you may do without

without any violation of your principles. Thus was Harry, though with ſome reluctance, induced to ſit down to cards with the reſt. The game, indeed, he found no difficulty in learning, but he could not help remarking with wonder, the extreme ſolicitude which appeared in the face of all the players at every change of fortune. Even the young ladies, all but miſs Simmons, ſeemed to be equally ſenſible of the paſſion of gaining money with the reſt; and ſome of them behaved with a degree of aſperity which quite aſtoniſhed him. After ſeveral changes of fortune, it happened that miſs Simmons and Harry were the only remaining players; all the reſt, by the laws of the game, had forfeited all pretenſions to the ſtake, the property of which was clearly veſted in theſe two, and one more deal was wanting to decide it. But Harry with great politeneſs roſe from table, and told miſs Simmons, that as he had only played upon her account, he was now no longer wanted, and that the whole undoubtedly belonged

belonged to her. Miſs Simmons refuſed to take it, and when ſhe found that Harry was not to be induced to play any more, ſhe at laſt propoſed to him to divide what was left. This alſo Harry declined, alleging that he had not the leaſt title to any part. But miſs Simmons, who began to be uneaſy at the obſervation which this extraordinary conteſt produced, told Harry that he would very much oblige her by taking his ſhare of the money, and laying it out in any manner for her that he judged beſt. Upon this condition, anſwered Harry, I will take it; and I think I know a method of laying it out, which you will not entirely diſapprove.

The next day, as ſoon as breakfaſt was over, Harry diſappeared; nor was he come back when the company were aſſembled at dinner. At length he came in, with a glow of health and exerciſe upon his face, and that diſorder of dreſs which is produced by a long expedition. The young ladies eyed him with great contempt, which ſeemed a little to diſconcert him; but Mr. Merton

ſpeaking

ſpeaking to him with great good-humour, and making room for him to ſit down, Harry ſoon recovered from his confuſion. In the evening, after a long converſation among the young people about public diverſions, and plays, and dancers, and actors, they happened to mention the name of a celebrated performer, who at this time engaged the whole attention of the town. Maſter Compton, after expatiating with great enthuſiaſm upon the ſubject, added, that nothing was ſo faſhionable as to make great preſents to this perſon, in order to ſhow the taſte and elegance of the giver. He then propoſed, that as ſo many young gentlemen and ladies were here aſſembled, they ſhould ſet an example which would do them infinite honour, and probably be followed throughout the kingdom, of making a little collection among themſelves to buy a piece of plate, or a gold ſnuff-box, or ſome other trifle, to be preſented in their name. He added, that though he could ill ſpare the money, having juſt laid out ſix guineas upon

upon a new pair of buckles, he would contribute a guinea to ſo excellent a purpoſe, and that maſter Maſh and Merton would do the ſame. This propoſal was univerſally approved of by all the company; and all, but Harry, promiſed to contribute in proportion to their finances. This maſter Maſh obſerving, ſaid, Well, farmer, and what will you ſubſcribe? Harry anſwered, that upon this occaſion he muſt beg to be excuſed, for he had nothing to give. Here is a pretty fellow! anſwered Maſh; laſt night we ſaw him pouch thirty ſhillings of our money, which he cheated us out of at commerce, and now the little ſtingy wretch will not contribute half a crown, where we are giving away whole guineas. Upon this, miſs Matilda ſaid, in an ironical manner, that maſter Harry had always an excellent reaſon to give for his conduct; and ſhe did not doubt but he could prove to all their ſatisfaction, that it was more liberal to keep his money in his pocket than to give it away. Harry, who was a little nettled

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at theſe reflections, anſwered, that though he was not bound to give any reaſon, he thought he had a very good one to give; and that was, that he ſaw no generoſity in thus beſtowing money. According to your own account, added he, the perſon you have been talking of, gains more than fifty poor families have in the country to maintain themſelves; and therefore, if I had any money to give away, I ſhould certainly give it to thoſe that want it moſt. With theſe words, Harry went out of the room, and the reſt of the gentry, after abuſing him very liberally, ſat down to cards. But miſs Simmons, who imagined that there was more in Harry's conduct than he had explained, excuſed herſelf from cards, and took an opportunity of talking to him upon the ſubject. After ſpeaking to him with great good-nature, ſhe aſked him, whether it might not have been better to have contributed ſomething along with the reſt, than to have offended them by ſo free an expoſition of his ſentiments; even though he did

not

not entirely approve of the ſcheme. Indeed, madam, ſaid Harry, this is what I would gladly have done, but it was totally out of my power. How can that be, Harry? did you not win the other night near thirty ſhillings? That, madam, all belonged to you; and I have already diſpoſed of it in your name, in a manner that I hope you will not diſapprove. How is that? anſwered the young lady with ſome ſurpriſe. Madam, ſaid Harry, there was a young woman that lived with my father as a ſervant, and always behaved with the greateſt honeſty and carefulneſs. This young woman had an aged father and mother, who for a great while were able to maintain themſelves by their own labour; but at laſt the poor old man became too weak to do a day's work, and his wife was afflicted with a diſeaſe they call the palſy. Now, when this good young woman ſaw that her parents were in ſuch great diſtreſs, ſhe left her place and went to live with them, on purpoſe to take care of them; and ſhe works very hard, whenever

ever ſhe can get work, and fares very hard, in order to maintain her parents; and though we aſſiſt them all we can, I know that ſometimes they can hardly get food and clothes. Therefore, madam, as you were ſo kind to ſay, that I ſhould diſpoſe of this money for you, I ran over this morning to theſe poor people, and gave them all the money in your name: and I hope you will not be diſpleaſed at the uſe I have put it to. Indeed, anſwered the young lady, I am much obliged to you for the good opinion you have of me; and the application of it does me a great deal of honour: I am only ſorry you did not give it in your own name. That, replied Harry, I had not any right to do; it would have been attributing to myſelf what did not belong to me, and equally inconſiſtent with truth and honeſty.

In this manner did the time paſs away at Mr. Merton's, while Harry received very little ſatisfaction from his viſit, except in converſing with miſs Simmons. The affability and good ſenſe of this young lady had

had entirely gained his confidence. While all the other young ladies were continually intent upon diſplaying their talents and importance, ſhe alone was ſimple and unaffected. But what diſguſted Harry more than ever was, that his refined companions ſeemed to conſider themſelves, and a few of their acquaintance, as the only beings of any conſequence in the world. The moſt trifling inconvenience, the being a little too hot, a little too cold, the walking a few hundred yards, the waiting a few minutes for their dinner, the having a trifling cold, or a little head-ache, were misfortunes ſo feelingly lamented, that he would have imagined they were the moſt tender of the human ſpecies, had he not obſerved that they conſidered the ſufferings of all below them with a profound indifference. If the misfortunes of the poor were mentioned, he heard of nothing but the inſolence and ingratitude of that claſs of people, which ſeemed to be a ſufficient excuſe for the want of common humanity. Surely, ſaid Harry

to

to himſelf, there cannot be ſo much difference between one human being and another; or if there is, I ſhould think that part of them the moſt valuable, which cultivates the ground and provides neceſſaries for all the reſt: not thoſe, who underſtand nothing but dreſs, walking with their toes out, ſtaring modeſt people out of countenance, and jabbering a few words of a foreign language.

But now the attention of all the younger part of the company was fixed upon making preparations for a ball; which Mrs. Merton had determined to give in honour of maſter Tommy's return. The whole houſe was now full of milliners, mantua-makers, and dancing maſters. All the young ladies were employed in giving directions about their clothes, or in practiſing the ſteps of different dances. Harry now, for the firſt time, began to comprehend the infinite importance of dreſs. Even the elderly ladies ſeemed to be as much intereſted about the affair as their daughters; and inſtead of the

the leſſons of conduct and wiſdom which he expected to hear, nothing ſeemed to employ their attention a moment, but French trimmings, gauzes, and Italian flowers. Miſs Simmons alone appeared to conſider the approaching ſolemnity with perfect indifference. Harry had never heard a ſingle word drop from her that expreſſed either intereſt or impatience; but he had for ſome days obſerved her employed in her room, with more than common aſſiduity. At length, upon the very day that was deſtined for this important exhibition, ſhe came to him with a benevolent ſmile, and ſpoke to him thus: I was ſo much pleaſed with the account you gave me the other day, of that poor young woman's duty and affection towards her parents, that I have for ſome time employed myſelf in preparing for them a little preſent, which I ſhall be obliged to you, maſter Harry, to convey to them. I have unfortunately never learned either to embroider, or to paint artificial flowers; but my good uncle has taught me, that the beſt

employment I can make of my hands is to aſſiſt thoſe that cannot aſſiſt themſelves. Saying this, ſhe put into his hands a parcel that contained ſome linen and other neceſſaries for the poor old people; and bade him tell them not to forget to call upon her uncle, when ſhe was returned home; as he was always happy to aſſiſt the deſerving and induſtrious poor. Harry received her preſent with gratitude, and almoſt with tears of joy; and looking up in her face, imagined that he ſaw the features of one of thoſe angels which he had read of in the ſcriptures: ſo much does real, diſintereſted benevolence improve the expreſſion of the human countenance.

But all the reſt of the young gentry were employed in cares of a very different nature, the dreſſing their hair and adorning their perſons. Tommy himſelf had now completely reſumed his natural character, and thrown aſide all that he had learned during his reſidence with Mr. Barlow. He had contracted an infinite fondneſs for all thoſe ſcenes of diſſipation which his new friends

daily deſcribed to him, and began to be convinced, that one of the moſt important things in life is a faſhionable dreſs. In this moſt rational ſentiment he had been confirmed by almoſt all the young ladies, with whom he had converſed ſince his return home. The diſtinctions of character, relative to virtue and underſtanding, which had been with ſo much pains inculcated upon his mind, ſeemed here to be entirely unheeded. No one took the trouble of examining the real principles or motives from which any human being acted; while the moſt minute attention was continually given to what regarded merely the outſide. He obſerved, that the omiſſion of every duty towards our fellow-creatures was not only excuſed, but even to a certain degree admired, provided it was joined with a certain faſhionable appearance; while the moſt perfect probity, or integrity, was mentioned with coldneſs or diſguſt, and frequently with open ridicule, if unconnected with a brilliant appearance. As to all the common

mon virtues of life, ſuch as induſtry, economy, a punctuality in diſcharging our obligations or keeping our words, theſe were qualities which were treated as fit for nothing but the vulgar. Mr. Barlow, he found, had been utterly miſtaken in all the principles which he had ever inculcated. The human ſpecies, ſaid Mr. Barlow, can only be ſupplied with food and neceſſaries, by a conſtant aſſiduity in cultivating the earth and providing for their mutual wants. It is by labour that every thing is produced; without labour, theſe fertile fields which are now adorned with all the luxuriance of plenty, would be converted into barren heaths or impenetrable thickets; theſe meadows, the ſupport of a thouſand herds of cattle, be covered with ſtagnated waters, that would not only render them uninhabitable by beaſts, but corrupt the air with peſtilential vapours. Even theſe innumerable flocks of ſheep, that feed along the hills, would diſappear along with that cultivation, which can alone ſupport them, and

ſecure their exiſtence. For this reaſon, would Mr. Barlow ſay, labour is the firſt and moſt indiſpenſable duty of the human ſpecies, from which no one can have a right entirely to withdraw himſelf. But, however true might be theſe principles, they were ſo totally inconſiſtent with the conduct and opinions of his new friends, that it was not poſſible for Tommy long to remember their force. He had been near a month with a few young gentlemen and ladies of his own rank, and, inſtead of their being brought up to produce any thing uſeful, he found that the great object of all their knowledge and education was only to waſte, to conſume, to deſtroy, to diſſipate what was produced by others. He even found that this inability to aſſiſt either themſelves or others, ſeemed to be a merit upon which every one valued himſelf extremely; ſo that an individual that could not exiſt without having two attendants to wait upon him, was ſuperior to him that had only one; but was obliged in turn to yield to another

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that required four. And, indeed, this new ſyſtem ſeemed much more eaſy than the old; for inſtead of giving himſelf any trouble about his manners or underſtanding, he might with ſafety indulge all his caprices; give way to all his paſſions; be humourſome, haughty, unjuſt, and ſelfiſh to the extreme; he might be ungrateful to his friends, diſobedient to his parents, a glutton, an ignorant blockhead; in ſhort, every thing which to plain ſenſe appears moſt frivolous or contemptible, without incurring the leaſt imputation, provided his hair hung faſhionably about his ears, his buckles were ſufficiently large, and his politeneſs unimpeached to the ladies.

Once, indeed, Harry had thrown him into a diſagreeable train of thinking, by aſking him with great ſimplicity, what ſort of a figure theſe young gentlemen would have made in the army of Leonidas, or theſe young ladies upon a deſert iſland, where they would be obliged to ſhift for themſelves. But Tommy had lately learned

that nothing ſpoils the face more than intenſe reflection; and therefore as he could not eaſily reſolve the queſtion, he wiſely determined to forget it.

And now the important evening approached; the largeſt room in the houſe was lighted up for the dancers, and all the little company aſſembled. Tommy was that day dreſſed in an unuſual ſtyle of elegance; and had ſubmitted without murmuring to be under the hands of an hairdreſſer for two hours. But what gave him the greateſt ſatisfaction of all, was an immenſe pair of new buckles, which Mrs. Merton had ſent for on purpoſe to grace the perſon of her ſon. Several minuets were danced, to the great admiration of the company; and among the reſt Tommy, who had been practiſing ever ſince he had been at home, had the honour of exhibiting with miſs Matilda. He indeed began with a certain degree of diffidence, but was ſoon inſpired with a proper degree of confidence by the applauſes which reſounded on every ſide.

ſide. What an elegant little creature! cried one lady. What a ſhape is there! ſaid a ſecond. I proteſt he puts me in mind of Veſtris himſelf. Indeed, ſaid a third, Mrs. Merton is a moſt happy mother to be poſſeſſed of ſuch a ſon, who wants nothing but an introduction to the world, to be one of the moſt elegant creatures in England, and the moſt accompliſhed. As ſoon as Tommy had finiſhed his dance, he led his partner to her ſeat, with a grace that ſurpriſed all the company anew; and then with the ſweeteſt condeſcenſion imaginable, he went from one lady to another, to receive the praiſes which they liberally poured out; as if it was the greateſt action in the world to draw one foot behind another, and to walk on tiptoe. Harry, in the mean time, had ſhrouded himſelf in the moſt obſcure part of the room, and was ſilently gazing upon the ſcene that paſſed. He knew that his company would give no pleaſure among the elegant figures that engroſſed the foremoſt ſeats, and felt not the leaſt inclination for

ſuch an honour. In this ſituation he was obſerved by maſter Compton; who, at the ſame inſtant, formed a ſcheme of mortifying miſs Simmons, whom he did not like, and of expoſing Harry to the general ridicule. He therefore propoſed it to Maſh, who had partly officiated as maſter of the ceremonies, who agreed to aſſiſt him, with all the readineſs of officious malice. Maſter Maſh, therefore, went up to miſs Simmons, and with all the ſolemnity of reſpect invited her out to dance: which ſhe, although indifferent about the matter, accepted without heſitation. In the mean time, maſter Compton went up to Harry with the ſame hypocritical civility, and in miſs Simmons's name invited him to dance a minuet. It was in vain that Harry aſſured him he knew nothing about the matter; his perfidious friend told him, that it was an indiſpenſable duty for him to ſtand up; that miſs Simmons would never forgive him if he ſhould refuſe; that it would be ſufficient if he could juſt deſcribe the figure, without embarraſſ-

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ing himſelf about the ſteps. In the mean time, he pointed out miſs Simmons, who was advancing towards the upper end of the room, and taking advantage of his confuſion and embarraſſment, led him forward, and placed him by the young lady's ſide. Harry was not yet acquainted with the ſublime ſcience of impoſing upon unwary ſimplicity, and therefore never doubted that the meſſage had come from his friend; and as nothing could be more repugnant to his character than the want of compliance, he thought it neceſſary at leaſt to go and expoſtulate with her upon the ſubject. This was his intention when he ſuffered himſelf to be led up the room; but his tormentors did not give him time, for they placed him by the ſide of the young lady, and inſtantly called to the muſic to begin. Miſs Simmons, in her turn, was equally ſurpriſed at the partner that was provided for her; ſhe had never imagined minuet-dancing to be one of Harry's accompliſhments; and therefore inſtantly ſuſpected that it was a

concerted ſcheme to mortify her. However, in this ſhe was determined they ſhould be diſappointed, as ſhe was deſtitute of all pride, and had the ſincereſt regard for Harry. As ſoon, therefore, as the muſic ſtruck up, the young lady began her reverence; which Harry, who found he was now completely caught, and had no time for explanation, imitated as well as he was able, but in ſuch a manner as ſet the whole room in a titter. Harry, however, arming himſelf with all the fortitude he poſſeſſed, performed his part as well as could be expected from a perſon that had never learned a ſingle ſtep of dancing. By keeping his eye fixed upon his partner, he made a ſhift at leaſt to preſerve ſomething of the figure, although he was terribly deficient in the ſteps and graces of the dance. But his partner, who was ſcarcely leſs embarraſſed than himſelf, and wiſhed to ſhorten the exhibition, after croſſing once, preſented him with her hand. Harry had unfortunately not remarked the nature of this manœuvre with perfect accuracy; and therefore

therefore imagining that one hand was juſt as good as the other, he offered the young lady his left, inſtead of his right hand. At this incident, an univerſal peal of merriment, which they no longer laboured to conceal, burſt from almoſt all the company; and miſs Simmons wiſhing at any rate to cloſe the ſcene, preſented her partner with both her hands, and abruptly finiſhed the dance. The unfortunate couple then retreated to the lower end of the room, amid the jeſts and ſneers of their companions, particularly Maſh and Compton, who aſſumed unuſual importance upon the credit of ſuch a brilliant invention. When they were ſeated, miſs Simmons could not help aſking Harry, with ſome diſpleaſure, why he had thus expoſed himſelf and her, by attempting what he was totally ignorant of; and added, that though there was no diſgrace in not being able to dance, it was very great folly to attempt it without having learned a ſingle ſtep. Indeed, madam, anſwered Harry, I never ſhould have thought of trying to do what I knew

I was totally ignorant of; but maſter Compton came to me, and told me, that you particularly deſired me to dance with you, and led me to the other end of the room; and I only came to ſpeak to you and to inform you that I knew nothing about the matter, for fear you ſhould think me uncivil; and then the muſic began to play and you to dance, ſo that I had no opportunity of ſpeaking; and I thought it better to do the beſt I could, than to ſtand ſtill, or leave you there. Miſs Simmons inſtantly recovered her former good humour, and ſaid, Well, Harry, we are not the firſt, nor ſhall be the laſt by hundreds, that have made a ridiculous figure in a ball-room, without ſo good an excuſe. But I am ſorry to ſee ſo malicious a diſpoſition in theſe young gentlemen, and that all their knowledge of polite life has not taught them a little better manners. Why, madam, anſwered Harry, ſince you are ſo good as to talk to me upon the ſubject, I muſt confeſs that I have been very much ſurpriſed at many

many things I have ſeen at Mr. Merton's. All theſe young gentlemen and ladies are continually talking about genteel life and manners, and yet they are frequently doing things which ſurpriſe me. Mr. Barlow has always told me that politeneſs conſiſted in a diſpoſition to oblige every body around us, and to ſay or do nothing which can give them diſagreeable impreſſions. Yet I continually ſee theſe young gentlemen ſtriving to do and ſay things, for no other reaſon than to give pain. For not to go any farther than the preſent inſtance, what motive can maſter Compton and Maſh have had, but to mortify you by giving you ſuch a partner? You, madam, too, that are ſo kind and good to every body, that I ſhould think it impoſſible not to love you. Harry, anſwered the young lady, what you ſay about politeneſs is perfectly juſt. I have heard my uncle and many ſenſible people ſay the ſame. But in order to acquire this ſpecies of it, both goodneſs of heart and a juſt way of thinking are required; and therefore

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many people content themſelves with aping what they can pick up in the dreſs, or geſtures, or cant expreſſions of the higher claſſes: juſt like the poor aſs that dreſt in the ſkin of a lion was taken for the lion himſelf, till his unfortunate braying expoſed the cheat. Pray, madam, what is that ſtory? ſaid Harry. It is a trifling one that I have read, anſwered miſs Simmons, of ſomebody, that having procured a lion's ſkin, faſtened it round the body of an aſs, and then turned him looſe, to the great affright of the neighbourhood. Thoſe who ſaw him firſt, imagined that a monſtrous lion had invaded the country, and fled with precipitation. Even the very cattle caught the panic, and were ſcattered by hundreds over the plains. In the mean time, the victorious aſs pranced and capered along the fields, and diverted himſelf with running after the fugitives. But at length, in the gaiety of his heart, he broke out into ſuch a diſcordant braying, as ſurpriſed thoſe that were neareſt, and expected to hear a very different

different noiſe from under the terrible ſkin. At length a reſolute fellow ventured by degrees nearer to this object of their terror, and diſcovering the cheat that had been practiſed upon them, diveſted the poor aſs of all his borrowed ſpoils, and drove him away with his cudgel.

This ſtory, continued miſs Simmons, is continually coming into my mind, when I ſee any body imagine himſelf of great importance, becauſe he has adopted ſome particular mode of dreſs, or the grimaces of thoſe that call themſelves faſhionable people. Nor do I ever ſee maſter Maſh, or Compton, without thinking of the lion's ſkin, and expecting every moment to hear them bray. Harry laughed very heartily at this ſtory; but now their attention was called towards the company, who had ranged themſelves by pairs for country-dancing. Miſs Simmons, who was very fond of this exerciſe, then aſked Harry if he had never practiſed any of theſe dances. Harry ſaid it had happened to him three or four

four times at home, and that he believed he ſhould not be puzzled about any of the figures. Well then, ſaid the young lady, to ſhow how little I regard their intended mortification, I will ſtand up, and you ſhall be my partner. So they roſe, and placed themſelves at the bottom of the whole company, according to the laws of dancing, which appoint that place for thoſe who come laſt. And now the muſic began to ſtrike up in a more joyous ſtrain; the little dancers exerted themſelves with all their activity, and the exerciſe diffuſed a glow of health and cheerfulneſs over the faces of the moſt pale and languid. Harry exerted himſelf here, with much better ſucceſs than he had lately done in the minuet. He had great command over all his limbs, and was well verſed in every play that gives addreſs to the body; ſo that he found no difficulty in practiſing all the varied figures of the dances; particularly with the aſſiſtance of miſs Simmons, who explained to him every thing that appeared embarraſſ-

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ing. But now, by the continuance of the dance, all who were at firſt at the upper end had deſcended to the bottom; where, by the laws of the diverſion, they ought to have waited quietly, till their companions, becoming in their turn uppermoſt, had danced down to their former places. But, when miſs Simmons and Harry expected to have had their juſt ſhare of the exerciſe, they found that almoſt all their companions had deſerted them, and retired to their places. Harry could not help wondering at this behaviour; but miſs Simmons told him with a ſmile, that it was only of a piece with the reſt; and that ſhe had often remarked it at country aſſemblies, where all the gentry of a county were gathered together. This is frequently the way, added ſhe, that thoſe who think themſelves ſuperior to the reſt of the world, chooſe to ſhow their importance. This is a very bad way, indeed, replied Harry: people may chooſe whether they will dance or practiſe any particular diverſion; but if they do, they ought

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to ſubmit to the laws of it, without repining: and I have always obſerved among the little boys that I am acquainted with, that wherever this diſpoſition prevails it is the greateſt proof of a bad and contemptible temper. I am afraid, replied miſs Simmons, that your obſervations will hold univerſally true; and that thoſe who expect ſo much for themſelves, without being willing to conſider their fellow-creatures in turn, in whatever ſtation they are found, are always the moſt mean, ignorant, and deſpicable of the ſpecies. I remember, ſaid Harry, reading a ſtory of a great man, called ſir Philip Sydney. This gentleman was reckoned not only the braveſt, but the politeſt perſon in all England. It happened that he was ſent over the ſea to aſſiſt ſome of our allies againſt their enemies. After having diſtinguiſhed himſelf in ſuch a manner as gained him the love and eſteem of all the army, this excellent man one day received a ſhot, which broke his thigh as he was bravely fighting at the head of his men.

Sir

Sir Philip Sydney felt that he was mortally wounded, and was obliged to turn his horſe's head and retire to his tent, in order to have his wound examined. By the time that he reached the tent, he not only felt great agonies from his wound, but the heat of the weather, and the fever which the pain produced, had excited an intolerable thirſt; ſo that he prayed his attendants to fetch him a little water. With infinite difficulty ſome water was procured and brought to him; but, juſt as he was raiſing the cup to his lips, he chanced to ſee a poor Engliſh ſoldier, who had been mortally wounded in the ſame engagement, and lay upon the ground, faint and bleeding, and ready to expire. The poor man was ſuffering like his general, from the pain of a conſuming thirſt; and therefore, though reſpect prevented him from aſking for any, he turned his dying eyes upon the water, with an eagerneſs which ſufficiently explained his ſufferings. Upon this, the excellent and noble gentleman took the cup, which he had

had not yet taſted, from his lips, and gave it to his attendants; ordering them to carry it to the wounded ſoldier, and only ſaying, "This poor man wants it ſtill more than I do."

This ſtory, added Harry, was always a particular favourite with Mr. Barlow, and he has often pointed it out to me, as an example not only of the greateſt virtue and humanity, but alſo of that elevated method of thinking which conſtitutes the true gentleman. For what is it, I have heard him ſay, that gives a ſuperiority of manners, but the inclination to ſacrifice our own pleaſures and intereſts to the well-being of others? An ordinary perſon might have pitied the poor ſoldier, or even have aſſiſted him, when he had firſt taken care of himſelf: but who, in ſuch a dreadful extremity as the brave Sydney was reduced to, would be capable of even forgetting his own ſufferings to relieve another, that had not acquired the generous habit of always ſlighting his own gratifications for the ſake of his

his fellow-creatures? As Harry was converſing in this manner, the little company had left off dancing, and were refreſhing themſelves with a variety of cakes and agreeable liquors, which had been provided for the occaſion. Tommy Merton and the other young gentlemen were now diſtinguiſhing themſelves by their attendance upon the ladies, whom they were ſupplying with every thing they choſe to have; but no one thought it worth his while to wait upon miſs Simmons. When Harry obſerved this, he ran to the table, and upon a large waiter brought her cakes and lemonade, which he preſented, if not with a better grace, with a ſincerer deſire to oblige than any of the reſt. But, as he was ſtooping down to offer her the choice, maſter Maſh unluckily paſſed that way, and, elated by the ſucceſs of his late piece of ill-nature, determined to attempt a ſecond ſtill more brutal than the firſt. For this reaſon, juſt as miſs Simmons was helping herſelf to ſome wine and water, Maſh, pretending

pretending to ſtumble, puſhed Harry in ſuch a manner, that the greater part of the contents of the glaſſes was diſcharged full into her boſom. The young lady coloured at the inſult, and Harry, who inſtantly perceived that it had been done on purpoſe, being no longer able to contain his indignation, ſeized a glaſs that was only half emptied, and diſcharged the contents full into the face of the aggreſſor. Maſh, who was a boy of violent paſſions, exaſperated at this retaliation, which he ſo well deſerved, inſtantly catched up a drinking glaſs, and flung it full at the head of Harry. Happy was it for him, that it only grazed his head without taking the full effect. It however laid bare a conſiderable gaſh, and Harry was in an inſtant covered with his own blood. This ſight only provoked him the more, and made him forget both the place and company where he was; ſo that flying upon Maſh with all the fury of juſt revenge, a dreadful combat enſued, which put the whole room into a conſternation.

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But Mr. Merton ſoon appeared, and with ſome difficulty ſeparated the enraged champions. He then inquired into the ſubject of the conteſt, which maſter Maſh endeavoured to explain away as an accident. But Harry perſiſted in his account with ſo much firmneſs, in which he was corroborated by the teſtimony of miſs Simmons, that Mr. Merton readily perceived the truth. Maſh however apologized for himſelf in the beſt manner he was able, by ſaying, that he had only meant to play maſter Harry an innocent trick, but that he had undeſignedly injured miſs Simmons. Whatever Mr. Merton felt, he did not ſay a great deal; he, however, endeavoured to pacify the enraged combatants, and ordered aſſiſtance to Harry to bind up the wound, and clean him from the blood which had now disfigured him from head to foot. Mrs. Merton in the mean time, who was ſitting at the upper end of the room amidſt the other ladies, had ſeen the fray, and been informed that it was owing to Harry's throwing a glaſs of

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lemonade in maſter Maſh's face. This gave Mrs. Compton an opportunity of indulging herſelf again in long invectives againſt Harry, his breeding, family, and manners. She never, ſhe ſaid, had liked the boy, and now he had juſtified all her forebodings upon the ſubject. Such a little vulgar wretch could never have been witneſs to any thing but ſcenes of riot and ill-manners; and now he was brawling and fighting in a gentleman's houſe, juſt as he would do at one of the public houſes to which he was uſed to go with his father. While ſhe was in the midſt of this eloquent harangue, Mr. Merton came up, and gave a more unprejudiced narrative of the affair; he acquitted Harry of all blame, and ſaid, that it was impoſſible, even for the mildeſt temper in the world, to act otherwiſe upon ſuch unmerited provocation. This account ſeemed wonderfully to turn the ſcale in Harry's favour; though miſs Simmons was no great favourite with the young ladies, yet the ſpirit and gallantry which he had diſ-

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covered in her cauſe began to act very forcibly upon their minds. One of the young ladies obſerved, that if maſter Harry was better dreſt, he would certainly be a very pretty boy; another ſaid, ſhe had always thought that he had a look above his ſtation; and a third remarked, that conſidering he had never learned to dance, he had by no means a vulgar look.

This untoward accident having thus been amicably ſettled, the diverſions of the evening went forward. But Harry, who had now loſt all taſte for genteel company, took the firſt opportunity of retiring to bed; where he ſoon fell aſleep, and forgot both the mortification and bruiſes he had received. In the mean time, the little company below found means to entertain themſelves till paſt midnight, and then retired to their chambers.

The next morning they roſe later than uſual: and, as ſeveral of the young gentlemen who had been invited to the preceding evening's diverſion, were not to re-

turn till after dinner, they agreed to take a walk into the country. Harry went with them as uſual, though maſter Maſh by his miſrepreſentations had prejudiced Tommy and all the reſt againſt him. But Harry, who was conſcious of his own innocence, and began to feel the pride of injured friendſhip, diſdained to give an explanation of his behaviour; ſince his friend was not ſufficiently intereſted about the matter to demand one. But, while they were ſlowly walking along the common, they diſcovered at a diſtance a prodigious crowd of people, that were all moving forward in the ſame direction. This attracted the curioſity of the little troop; and upon inquiry they found there was going to be a bull-baiting. Inſtantly an eager deſire ſeized upon all the little gentry to ſee the diverſion. One obſtacle alone preſented itſelf, which was, that their parents, and particularly Mrs. Merton, had made them promiſe that they would avoid every ſpecies of danger. This objection was however removed by

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maſter Billy Lyddal; who obſerved that there could be no danger in the ſight, as the bull was to be tied faſt, and could therefore do them no harm. Beſides, added he ſmiling, what occaſion have they to know that we have been at all? I hope we are not ſuch ſimpletons as to accuſe ourſelves, or ſuch tell-tales as to inform againſt one another. No! no! no! was the univerſal exclamation from all but Harry, who had remained profoundly ſilent upon the occaſion. Maſter Harry has not ſaid a word, ſaid one of the little folks; ſure he will not tell of us. Indeed, ſaid Harry, I don't wiſh to tell of you; but if I am aſked where we have been, how can I help telling?—What, anſwered maſter Lyddal, can't you ſay, that we have been walking along the road, or acroſs the common, without mentioning any thing farther?—No, ſaid Harry, that would not be ſpeaking truth: beſides, bull-baiting is a very cruel and dangerous diverſion, and therefore none of us ſhould go to ſee it; particularly maſter Merton, whoſe

mother loves him ſo much, and is ſo careful about him. This ſpeech was not received with much approbation by thoſe to whom it was addreſſed. A pretty fellow, ſaid one, to give himſelf theſe airs, and pretend to be wiſer than every one elſe!—What, ſaid maſter Compton, does this beggar's brat think he is to govern gentlemen's ſons, becauſe maſter Merton is ſo good as to keep company with him?—If I were maſter Merton, ſaid a third, I'd ſoon ſend the little impertinent jackanapes home to his own blackguard family.—And maſter Maſh, who was the biggeſt and ſtrongeſt boy in the whole company, came up to Harry, and grinning in his face, ſaid, So all the return that you make to maſter Merton for his goodneſs to you, is to be a ſpy and an informer, is it, you little dirty blackguard?—Harry, who had long perceived and lamented the coolneſs of maſter Merton towards him, was now much more grieved to ſee that his friend was not only ſilent, but ſeemed to take an ill-natured pleaſure

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in theſe inſults, than at the inſults themſelves which were offered to him. However, as ſoon as the crowd of tormentors which ſurrounded him, would give him leave to ſpeak, he coolly anſwered, that he was as little of a ſpy and informer as any of them; and as to begging, he thanked God, he wanted as little of them, as they did of him: beſides, added he, were I even reduced ſo low as that, I ſhould know better how to employ my time, than to aſk charity of any one here.

This ſarcaſtic anſwer, and the reflections that were made upon it, had ſuch an effect upon the too irritable temper of maſter Merton, that in an inſtant, forgetting his former obligations and affection to Harry, he ſtrutted up to him, and clenching his fiſt, aſked him, whether he meant to inſult him? Well done, maſter Merton, echoed through the whole ſociety; thraſh him heartily for his impudence. No, maſter Tommy, anſwered Harry, it is you and your friends here that inſult me. What,

anſwered Tommy, are you a perſon of ſuch conſequence, that you muſt not be ſpoken to? You are a prodigious fine gentleman indeed.—I always thought you one, till now, anſwered Harry.—How, you raſcal, ſaid Tommy, do you ſay that I am not a gentleman?—Take that, and immediately ſtruck Harry upon the face with his fiſt. His fortitude was not proof againſt this treatment; he turned his face away, and only ſaid in a low tone of voice, Maſter Tommy, maſter Tommy, I never ſhould have thought it poſſible you could have treated me in this unworthy manner: then covering his face with both his hands, he burſt into an agony of crying.

But the little troop of gentlemen, who were vaſtly delighted with the mortification which Harry had received, and had formed a very indifferent opinion of his proweſs, from the patience which he had hitherto exerted, began to gather round, and repeat their perſecutions. Coward, and black-guard, and tell-tale, echoed in a chorus, through

through the circle; and ſome more forward than the reſt, ſeized hold of him by the hair, in order that he might hold up his head and ſhow his pretty face. But Harry, who now began to recollect himſelf, wiped his tears with his hand, and looking up, aſked them with a firm tone of voice and a ſteady countenance, why they meddled with him; then ſwinging round, he diſengaged himſelf at once, from all who had taken hold of him. The greateſt part of the company gave back at this queſtion, and ſeemed diſpoſed to leave him unmoleſted; but maſter Maſh, who was the moſt quarrelſome and impertinent boy preſent, advanced, and looking at Harry with a contemptuous ſneer, ſaid, This is the way we always treat ſuch little blackguards as you; and if you have not had enough to ſatisfy you, we'll willingly give you ſome more. As to all your nick-names and nonſenſe, anſwered Harry, I don't think it worth my while to reſent them; but though I have ſuffered maſter Merton to ſtrike me, there's

not another in the company ſhall do it; or if he chooſes to try, he ſhall ſoon find whether or not I am a coward. Maſter Maſh made no anſwer to this but by a ſlap of the face, which Harry returned by a punch of his fiſt, which had almoſt overſet his antagoniſt, in ſpite of his ſuperiority of ſize and ſtrength. This unexpected check from a boy ſo much leſs than himſelf might probably have cooled the courage of Maſh, had he not been aſhamed of yielding to one whom he had treated with ſo much unmerited contempt. Summoning, therefore, all his reſolution, he flew at Harry like a fury; and, as he had often been engaged in quarrels like this, he ſtruck him with ſo much force, that with the firſt blow he aimed, he felled him to the ground. Harry, foiled in this manner, but not diſmayed, roſe in an inſtant and attacked his adverſary with redoubled vigour, at the very moment when he thought himſelf ſure of the victory. A ſecond time did Maſh, after a ſhort but ſevere conteſt, cloſe with his undaunted enemy,

enemy, and by dint of ſuperior ſtrength, roughly hurl him to the ground. The little troop of ſpectators, who had miſtaken Harry's patient fortitude for cowardice, began now to entertain the ſincereſt reſpect for his courage, and gathered round the combatants in ſilence. A ſecond time did Harry riſe and attack his ſtronger adverſary, with the cool intrepidity of a veteran combatant. The battle now began to grow more dreadful and more violent. Maſh had ſuperior ſtrength and dexterity, and greater habitude of fighting; his blows were aimed with equal ſkill and force; and each appeared ſufficient to cruſh an enemy ſo much inferior in ſize, in ſtrength, in years: but Harry poſſeſſed a body hardened to ſupport pain and hardſhip; a greater degree of activity, a cool, unyielding courage, which nothing could diſturb or daunt. Four times had he been now thrown down by the irreſiſtible ſtrength of his foe; four times had he riſen ſtronger from his fall, covered with dirt and blood, and panting

with fatigue, but ſtill unconquered. At length, from the duration of the combat and his own violent exertions, the ſtrength of Maſh began to fail: enraged and diſappointed at the obſtinate reſiſtance he had met with, he began to loſe all command of his temper and ſtrike at random; his breath grew ſhort, his efforts were more laborious, and his knees ſeemed ſcarcely able to ſuſtain his weight. But actuated by rage and ſhame, he ruſhed with all his might upon Harry, as if determined to cruſh him with one laſt effort. Harry prudently ſtepped back, and contented himſelf with parrying the blows that were aimed at him; till ſeeing that his antagoniſt was almoſt exhauſted by his own impetuoſity, he darted at him with all his force, and, by one ſucceſsful blow, levelled him with the ground.

An involuntary ſhout of triumph now burſt from the little aſſembly of ſpectators; for ſuch is the temper of human beings, that they are more inclined to conſider ſuperiority of force than juſtice; and the very

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ſame boys who juſt before were loading Harry with taunts and outrages, were now ready to congratulate him upon his victory. He, however, when he found his antagoniſt no longer capable of reſiſtance, kindly aſſiſted him to riſe, and told him he was very ſorry for what had happened; but he, oppreſſed at once with the pain of his bruiſes and the diſgrace of his defeat, obſerved an obſtinate ſilence.

Juſt in this moment, their attention was engaged by a new and ſudden ſpectacle. A bull of the largeſt ſize and greateſt beauty was led acroſs the plain, adorned with ribands of various colours. The majeſtic animal ſuffered himſelf to be led along an unreſiſting prey, till he arrived at the ſpot which was deſtined for the theatre of his perſecutions. Here he was faſtened to an iron ring, which had been ſtrongly let into the ground, and whoſe force they imagined would be ſufficient to reſtrain him, even in the midſt of his moſt violent exertions An innumerable crowd of men, of women,

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of children, then ſurrounded the place, waiting with eager curioſity for the inhuman ſport which they expected. The little party, which had accompanied maſter Merton, were now no longer to be reſtrained; their friends, their parents, admonition, duty, promiſes, were all forgotten in an inſtant, and, ſolely intent upon gratifying their curioſity, they mingled with the ſurrounding multitude.

Harry, although reluctantly, followed them at a diſtance; neither the ill-uſage he had received, nor the pain of his wounds, could make him unmindful of maſter Merton, or careleſs of his ſafety. He knew too well the dreadful accidents which frequently attend theſe barbarous ſports, to be able to quit his friend, till he had once more ſeen him in a place of ſafety. And now the noble animal, that was to be thus wantonly tormented, was faſtened to the ring by a ſtrongly-twiſted cord; which, though it confined and cramped his exertions, did not entirely reſtrain them. Although

though poſſeſſed of almoſt irreſiſtible ſtrength, he ſeemed unwilling to exert it; and looked round upon the infinite multitude of his enemies with a gentleneſs that ought to have diſarmed their animoſity. Preſently, a dog of the largeſt ſize and moſt ferocious courage is let looſe; who, as ſoon as he beheld the bull, uttered a ſavage yell, and ruſhed upon him with all the rage of inveterate animoſity. The bull ſuffered him to approach with the coolneſs of deliberate courage; but juſt as the dog was ſpringing up to ſeize him, he ruſhed forward to meet his foe, and putting his head to the ground, canted him into the air ſeveral yards; and had not the ſpectators run and caught him upon their backs and hands, he would have been cruſhed to pieces in the fall. The ſame fate attended another, and another dog, which were let looſe ſucceſſively; the one was killed upon the ſpot, while the other, who had a leg broken in the fall, crawled howling and limping away. The bull, in the mean while, behaved with all

all the calmneſs and intrepidity of an experienced warrior; without violence, without paſſion, he waited every attack of his enemies, and then ſeverely puniſhed them for their raſhneſs. While this was tranſacting, to the diverſion not only of the rude and illiterate populace, but to that of the little gentry with maſter Merton, a poor half-naked black came up, and humbly implored their charity. He had ſerved, he told them, on board an Engliſh veſſel, and even ſhowed them the ſcars of ſeveral wounds he had received; but now he was diſcharged, and without friends, without aſſiſtance, he could ſcarcely find food to ſupport his wretched life, or clothes to cover him from the wintry wind. Some of the young gentry, who from a bad education had been little taught to feel or pity the diſtreſs of others, were baſe enough to attempt to jeſt upon his duſky colour and foreign accent; but maſter Merton, who, though lately much corrupted and changed from what he had been with Mr. Barlow,

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preſerved a great degree of generoſity, put his hand into his pocket in order to relieve him, but unfortunately found nothing to give; the fooliſh profuſion which he had lately learned from the young gentlemen at his father's houſe, had made him waſte in cards, in play-things, in trifles, all his ſtock of money; and now he found himſelf unable to relieve that diſtreſs which he pitied. Thus repulſed on every ſide, and unaſſiſted, the unfortunate black approached the place where Harry ſtood, holding out the tattered remains of his hat, and imploring charity. Harry had not much to give, but he took ſixpence out of his pocket, which was all his riches, and gave it with the kindeſt look of compaſſion, ſaying, Here, poor man, this is all I have; if I had more, it ſhould be at your ſervice. He had no time to add more; for at that inſtant, three fierce dogs ruſhed upon the bull at once, and by their joint attacks rendered him almoſt mad. The calm deliberate courage, which he had hitherto ſhown, was now changed into rage

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and deſperation; he roared with pain and fury; flaſhes of fire ſeemed to come from his angry eyes, and his mouth was covered with foam and blood. He hurried round the ſtake with inceſſant toil and rage, firſt aiming at one, then at another, of the perſecuting dogs, that haraſſed him on every ſide, growling and baying inceſſantly, and biting him in every part. At length, with a furious effort that he made, he trampled one of his foes beneath his feet, and gored a ſecond to that degree, that his bowels came through the wound; and at the ſame moment, the cord which had hitherto confined him, ſnapped aſunder, and let him looſe upon the affrighted multitude. It is impoſſible to conceive the terror and diſmay which inſtantly ſeized the crowd of ſpectators. Thoſe, who before had been hallooing with joy, and encouraging the fury of the dogs with ſhouts and acclamations, were now ſcattered over the plain, and fled from the fury of the animal, whom they had been ſo baſely tormenting. The enraged

enraged bull, meanwhile, ruſhed like lightning over the plain, trampling ſome, goring others, and taking ample vengeance for the injuries he had received. Preſently, he ruſhed, with headlong fury, towards the ſpot where maſter Merton and his aſſociates ſtood; all fled with wild affright, but with a ſpeed that was not equal to that of the purſuer. Shrieks, and outcries, and lamentations were heard on every ſide; and thoſe, who a few minutes before had deſpiſed the good advice of Harry, would now have given the world to be ſafe in the houſes of their parents. Harry alone ſeemed to preſerve his preſence of mind; he neither cried out nor ran; but when the dreadful animal approached, leaped nimbly aſide, and the bull paſſed on, without embarraſſing himſelf about his eſcape. Not ſo fortunate was maſter Merton; he happened to be the laſt of the little troop of flyers, and full in the way which the bull had taken. And now his deſtruction appeared certain; for as he ran, whether through fear or the inequality

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of the ground, his foot ſlipped, and down he tumbled, in the very path of the enraged purſuing animal. All, who ſaw, imagined his fate inevitable; and it would certainly have proved ſo, had not Harry, with a courage and preſence of mind above his years, ſuddenly ſeized a prong, which one of the fugitives had dropped, and at the very moment when the bull was ſtooping to gore his defenceleſs friend, advanced and wounded him in the flank. The bull, in an inſtant, turned ſhort, and with redoubled rage made at his new aſſailant; and it is probable that, notwithſtanding his intrepidity, Harry would have paid the price of his aſſiſtance to his friend with his own life, had not an unexpected ſuccour arrived. But, in that inſtant, the grateful black ruſhed on like lightning to aſſiſt him, and aſſailing the bull with a weighty ſtick which he held in his hand, compelled him to turn his rage upon a new object. The bull indeed attacked him with all the impetuoſity of revenge, but the black jumped nimbly

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aſide and eluded his fury. Not contented with this, he wheeled round his fierce antagoniſt, and ſeizing him by the tail, began to batter his ſides with an unexpected ſtorm of blows. In vain did the enraged animal bellow and writhe himſelf about in all the convulſions of madneſs; his intrepid foe, without ever quitting his hold, ſuffered himſelf to be dragged about the field, ſtill continuing his diſcipline, till the creature was almoſt ſpent with the fatigue of his own violent agitations. And now ſome of the boldeſt of the ſpectators, taking courage, approached to his aſſiſtance, and throwing a well-twiſted rope over his head, they at length, by the dint of ſuperior numbers, completely maſtered the furious animal, and bound him to a tree. In the mean while, ſeveral of Mr. Merton's ſervants who had been ſent out after the young gentlemen, approached and took up their young maſter, who, though without a wound, was almoſt dead with fear and agitation. But Harry, after ſeeing that his friend was perfectly

fectly ſafe, and in the hands of his own family, invited the black to accompany him, and inſtead of returning to Mr. Merton's, took the way which led to his father's houſe.

THE END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.